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LD1705131088 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

The Syrian deployment in the southern suburb has been temporarily postponed pending the outcome of high-level contacts between Syria and Iran, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, citing a Shi'ite source "very close to the fundamentalists." Iranian sources disclosed that three senior Iranian officials were holding talks with Syrian officials in Damascus on ways to end the Hizballah-Amal conflict in Beirut, AFP noted. The three are IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust and Deputy Foreign Ministers Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam and 'Ali Mohammad Besharati. IRNA noted that Besharati and the Syrian foreign minister held talks in which they agreed on the need for an immediate solution to the crisis in Lebanon. Besharati subsequently visited Beirut for talks with Shi'ite clerics Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon noted. Meanwhile, a Syrian military official has visited Tehran for talks on the situation in the suburb and on the fate of the foreign hostages, according to Beirut radio.

Despite the delay, a Damascus radio commentary indicated that Syria still intends to deploy in the southern suburb, stating that "a decision by Syria normally carries moral and material weight, and is meant to be implemented rather than shelved." Anyone who thinks he can obstruct Syria's bid to restore calm and security to the suburb is "woefully mistaken," the radio added. In Beirut, Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an told a Hizballah delegation that Hizballah will be treated on an equal footing with the Amal Movement, according to Radio Free Lebanon. The station added that Hizballah is willing to close its military offices in the suburb if the Syrians meet a number of conditions, including a promise not to confront Hizballah members and not to search for the foreign hostages.

As for the military situation in the southern suburb, Beirut radio reported that Hizballah and Amal gunmen engaged in renewed clashes in the Al-Shiyah area 17 May. Fighting the previous day left 8 people dead and over 30 wounded, the Voice of Lebanon disclosed.

In Iran, President 'Ali Khamene'i gave an 'Id al-Fitr sermon in which he warned that Israel will be the only victor from the Muslim infighting in Lebanon, and he accused "alien and foreign hands" of stirring up the conflict, according to Tehran radio. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said his country is following events in Beirut closely, IDF radio noted, and he stressed that any attack on Hizballah should be viewed positively, though Israel should exercise "caution" over Syrian moves.

Sudan

New Cabinet—A new 26-member cabinet of the "National Reconciliation Government" headed by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was sworn in before the State Council 15 May, SUNA announced, noting that the ceremony was attended by Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and a number of national-level officials. Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front, became justice minister and attorney general. It had previously been decided that 10 portfolios would be alloted to the Al-Ummah Party, 6 to the DUP, 5 to the National Islamic Front, 5 to the Southerners, and 1 to the Sudanese National Party.

Prime Minister al-Mahdi instructed the new defense minister, retired General 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, to act as interior minister, the agency noted. New speakers of the Constituent Assembly and the Southern Council took office. According to Omdurman radio, Al-Mahdi issued a decree releasing from their posts all northern governors as well as the commissioner of Khartoum.

Khartoum Bombings—Three people carrying Lebanese passports were arrested in connection with the 15 May bombings at the Acropol Hotel, headquarters for several relief agencies, and a nearby social club, according to an Interior Ministry statement carried by Omdurman radio. The statement noted that 7 people, including 5 foreigners, were killed and 21 wounded. AFP reported that the attacks occurred as the new government was being sworn in.

SPLA Appeal for Relief—In a speech carried by the clandestine SPLA radio on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the SPLA's founding, rebel leader John Garang appealed to "nongovernmental" relief organizations to provide urgent emergency aid to some 3 million people facing starvation, disease, and death in the south. The Khartoum government's lack of concern over the "desparate" situation is consistent with its "war policy of genocide," Garang charged.

Maghreb Affairs

Algeria and Morocco restored full diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, a joint statement carried by Algiers and Rabat radios announced. The two countries stressed the importance of efforts to solve the problem of Western Sahara, and they noted their desire to carry out "continuous cooperation" toward unity in the Maghreb, African, and Arab arenas.

Moroccan King Hassan II and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid subsequently exchanged greetings in a telephone conversation, Algiers radio reported. In cables carried by Tunis radio, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali congratulated the two leaders and expressed his "utmost satisfaction" over their "wise decision."

Israel

An IDF officer was strongly reprimanded and a soldier received a suspended jail sentence for having opened fire "without any justification" during the 16 May West Bank clash in which one Arab was killed and three were wounded, Jerusalem radio reported. An Israeli contractor was seriously injured the same day while driving near the Qalandiyah refugee camp, THE JERUSALEM POST noted. The man suffered a fractured skull after he was hit by a rock and his vehicle crashed. Another incident occurred in the Qalandiyah area 17 May when a local resident was seriously wounded in a clash with IDF soldiers, Jerusalem radio revealed.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has urged Arab states to increase their support for the "uprising" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, WAKH reported. Speaking to Arab ambassadors in Baghdad, the PLO leader said the uprising requires more material assistance, asserting that the Arab states have thus far given only a quarter of the aid needed. He nevertheless stressed that the Palestinians are determined to continue the uprising regardless of sacrifices and despite the "great reduction" in funds from Arab states.

In Damascus, the DFLP issued a statement calling for "democratic" organizational and financial reforms within the PLO to meet the political and financial needs of the people in the occupied territories, Radio Monte Carlo reported. PLO institutions need to get rid of "bureaucratic cadres" which have become a heavy burden on the organization, the DFLP contended.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes raided a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 16 May, scoring an "accurate and effective" hit, the Iraqi command announced in a communique carried by Baghdad radio. Iraqi planes also carried out over 100 combat missions at the battlefronts, the communique stated. According to IRNA, 3 Iranian civilians were killed and 25 wounded by an Iraqi air attack on a village near Sanandaj, Iranian Kordestan. Iranian aircraft raided Iraq 17 May, bombing positions of the Iraqi VII Army Corps near Basra, the agency announced.

In further Iranian comment on alleged U.S. military coordination with Iraq during the latter's 14 May attack on Larak Island, a WIH spokesman cited by IRNA viewed this as an "open show of U.S. support for the Iraqi regime," indicating that President Reagan is "still dreaming of military adventures." The spokesman warned the U.S. Navy to be prepared for another "disgraceful retreat" akin to the withdrawal from Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Memorandum of Noncompliance—The Foreign Ministry's first official memorandum on alleged Pakistani "nonobservance and violation" of various stipulations of the Geneva accords was submitted to the UN Good Offices Mission, Kabul radio reported.

Farewell Rally—World attention is focused on the "historic" events taking place in Afghanistan, President Najibullah declared in a speech carried by BAKHTAR. Najibullah was addressing a festive Kabul rally to honor and bid farewell to the "internationalist" Soviet troops. Stressing the regime's commitment to the creation of a "broadly based coalition government," he urged the opposition to abandon "war and extremism" in favor of joint action to rebuild the country.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cables Perez de Cuellar on 'Holy Places'

JN1405202588 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1624 GMT 14 May 88

[Cable from Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, to Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general—date, place not given; read by announcer]

[Text] Greetings. Your Excellency the UN secretary general, I am writing to you today to brief you on the criminal, bloody incidents resulting from the flagrant violations which the Israeli occupation authorities have made and continue to make in the holy mosque and also in Al-Aqsa Mosque and the mosque of the Dome of the Rock. These incidents occurred on the blessed Al-Qadr night [night on which Koran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad], the night of 27 Ramadan, corresponding to 13 May. This is one of the Muslims' sacred nights. The incidents also occurred on the following day, the great Friday, during and after the Friday prayers. [as heard]

The Israeli military authorities sent thousands of gunmen to the mosque's yard. They sinfully attacked worshippers in a criminal way by using poisonous gases, live ammunition, and rubber bullets against worshippers in these holy places. Meanwhile, a number of helicopters flew over the holy mosque's yard with machineguns. Afterward, the Israeli forces chased the worshippers inside the holy mosque and beat up with sticks the women and men who were performing prayers and also attacked them with rubber bullets, poisionous gases, and live ammunition. These criminal attacks by the Israeli forces wounded more than 140 people, some of them seriously. Hundreds of people were also arrested.

From my position, I ask you, Your Excellency the UN secretary general, to take swift, immediate measures to protect these Islamic and Christian holy places, especially since these criminal Israeli aggressions have been repeated against Christian churches and Islamic mosques in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and in all other cities, villages, and camps in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

I appeal to you to carry out direct action to prevent the Israeli Government from violating the holy places in our sacred Jerusalem as well as our mosques and churches and also to protect worshippers in these holy places along with civilians around them. We also request insistence on implementing the Geneva conventions concerning the protection of the Palestinian people and their holy places by all means. With my best regards.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

PLO Memo on 'Holy Places'

JN1505193388 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 May 88

[Memorandum sent by the PLO to the United Nations, the nonaligned states, the OAU, the ICO, and the Arab League—date, place not given] [Text] The Zionist Israeli forces have carried out a new crime against Islamic holy places in Jerusalem. On the night of 27 Ramadan, the blessed Al-Qadr night [the night on which the holy Koran was revealed to Prophet Muhammad], the Israeli Government sent large numbers of its military and security forces to attack worshippers inside Al-Aqsa Mosque and the mosque of the Dome of the Rock. These forces continued their crime on the following day, the great Friday, by attacking the crowds of Muslim worshippers who came to the holy mosque and the two blessed mosques to perform prayers on this great, holy religious occasion.

These forces used poisonous gases, live ammunition, and rubber bullets and beat up female and male worshippers during and after the Friday prayers on this blessed day inside the two blessed mosques. These criminal Israeli forces were backed by helicopters which flew over the mosque's yard with their machineguns and dropped numerous internationally-banned gas bombs. This caused many casualties, particularly among female worshippers. There were more than 140 casualties, some of which were serious.

What happened proves more than ever before that Israel, its government, and its barbaric forces insist in a criminal way on committing their crimes against the Palestinian people and also against Islamic and Christian holy places. This attack was preceded by continued attacks against Christian churches and Islamic mosques in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and other cities in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Moreover, what is taking place is a flagrant aggression against these holy places and their worshippers. This is considered a new violation of the Geneva conventions.

World public opinion is urged now more than ever before to make effective moves, through the United Nations and directly, to protect these holy places in occupied Palestine as well as the worshippers who perform prayers in these holy places. It is also urged to protect the Palestinian civilians—women, children, and men—and implement the Geneva conventions in this regard. The PLO demands that the United Nations and religious and international bodies make effective and immediate moves to protect these holy places along with their worshippers and the Palestinian civilians around them. This is a humanitarian, religious, and moral, duty which obligates the international community to take effective and quick measures in this regard. God stands witness to our true intention.

Signed: The PLO.

'Arafat Criticizes Arab Stand on 'Uprising'

JN1605152988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 16 May 88

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (WAKH)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has urged the Arab states to increase and unify their political and material support for the popular uprising which has been continuing in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for the past 6 months.

In a 3-hour open dialogue with the Arab ambassadors in Baghdad last night, 'Arafat stressed the need to tackle the issue of material support in a way conforming with the necessary requirements to continue and promote the uprising to achieve the Palestinian people's objectives.

Reliable Arab diplomatic sources have told the WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that during the dialogue 'Arafat expressed the pain being experienced by the Palestinian people due to the various Arab stands on the uprising. He also said that the Palestinians were pained by some Arab doubt about the march of the uprising despite the fact that more than 340 martyrs have been felled by Israeli troops' gunfire.

This meeting, which was in the form of questions and answers between 'Arafat and the Arab ambassadors, was held a few days prior to the date set by Algeria to hold an Arab summit conference devoted to the popular uprising in the occupied territories. Answering questions posed by the Arab ambassadors, particularly the GCC ambassadors, 'Arafat expressed the Palestinian people's determination to continue the uprising despite the great reduction in funds extended by the Arab states. According to these sources, 'Arafat pointed out that the aid so far extended is no more than 25 percent of what is necessary.

'Arafat stressed the importance of adopting a clear Arab political stand toward the uprising. He also stressed the importance of unifying the Arab media dealing with the truth of what is taking place in the occupied territories as well as halting the presentation of ideas and concepts that cast doubt on the leadership which has been running the uprising since its eruption.

These sources added the dialogue also dealt with the forthcoming Arab summit conference and the aid it may extend to the popular Palestinian uprising. Replying to questions on the summit conference, 'Arafat pointed out that the conference has been delayed for a long time. He added that some Arab states have not yet approved its convocation. Meanwhile, several European states and the U.S. Administration have intensified their moves after they learned about the vehemence of the uprising and also about the Palestinian determination which was expressed through the sacred stones.

Referring to the three tours of the region which U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz made in recent months, 'Arafat said these tours, along with the plan proposed by the U.S. Administration, did not take place by chance but due to the escalation of the uprising.

'Arafat clearly told the Arab ambassadors that the Palestinian people are determined to continue the uprising regardless of sacrifices and of the Arab stand with the aim of achieving the Palestinian people's objectives to establish an independent state. He said: The uprising will continue and escalate whether the Arab summit is held now or a year later and also whether Arabs pay their full financial obligations or keep their contributions at not more than 25 percent.

In its recent meeting, the PLO Executive Committee decided to send delegations to visit Palestinian gatherings in the world and in the Arab homeland to raise the necessary funds. It also emphasized the implementation of the familial solidarity principle among the Palestinian people to tackle the sharp decline in the funds currently required. In his dialogue which lasted until after midnight, 'Arafat stressed the importance of unifying the channels of aid and conforming them to the PLO. He asserted that the leadership which is running the conflict is a unified leadership working under the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

PLO's 'Arafat Issues Greeting on 'Id al-Fitr

JN1605195988 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1756 GMT 16 May 88

[Address by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, to the Palestinian people on 'Id al-Fitr—date, place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If you reach agreement, you will triumph. To my brothers, beloved ones, and kinfolk throughout our beloved homeland, to the blessed uprising generations, to the heroes of the blessed stones, to the cubs of the RPG in the camps of steadfastness and dignity in Lebanon, and to our heroic wounded, you are writing with your blood the oath of allegiance to Palestine. Our detainees, you are confirming through your steadfastness that you are loftier than your executioners and your people's enemies.

To our people wherever they may be in the diaspora, to the beloved fighters in every position of heroism, sacrifice, steadfastness, and loftiness, and to our women, children and elders in and outside the homeland, on this blessed occasion, that of the blessed month of Ramadan with all the good tidings and revolutionary tide it has brought about, I address you with all feelings of love, appreciation, and pride for all our people and sectors in every city, village, and camp, as well as in every prison and detention camp.

I greet you while you are confronting this odious Zionist enemy and its U.S. imperialist ally with determination and faith. You are confronting it with this brilliant jihad, this maturity, and this faith. You are also confronting it with this greatness, the greatness of bountiful offerings and readiness to offer further sacrifices that our heroic masses are offering along the road to liberation and repatriation, the road of the ongoing giant revolution, and the road of the ever-escalating popular uprising.

Brothers and beloved ones in and outside the occupied homeland, in Jerusalem and Gaza, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in the Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev; brothers and beloved ones in Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Al-Miyah Wa Miyah, Al-Rashidiyah, Beirut, and in southern Lebanon; brothers and beloved ones in the diaspora and in the positions of steadfastness; and our people of feats and heroic deeds, the people of sacrifices and martyrdom, the people of the children who are being martyred and to whom we daily bid farewell, as they are the beacons on the road to victory and life, to a free and dignified life.

These martyrs are in paradise at the side of the leader and the symbol, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. We bade him farewell a few days ago. His blood and that of his righteous brothers has scorched the earth under the feet of the invaders. They thought and imagined that through their odious crime they could strike at the revolution. On the contrary, this revolution became more inflamed. They also thought they could undermine the march. It became more entrenched. Yes, this pure blood is now an incandescent light in the hearts and infuses strength and vigor in the arms of the young men who are the supporting forces of this glorious revolution. It is the same pledge, o my brothers, o my people. We pledge to our righteous martyrs that we will continue until the Palestinian flag is raised over the hills of Jerusalem and on its walls, minarets, and churches.

O my brothers, my beloved, my folks; o my steadfast people in the homeland, in exile, and in the diaspora. From the moment we marched together on the path of our glorious revolution, the long and arduous path, we pledged that our only option is to continue, to continue, and to continue and to emerge victorious, God willing. I tell you, my brothers, my comrades-in-arms and my comrades on the arduous path, that there is no alternative to our inevitable victory, that the revolution is victorious, with God's support, regardless of the difficulties and the numerous obstacles. Victory is coming, the dawn is coming, and our independent Palestinian state is inevitable. Our capital is Jerusalem, the capital of revolutionaries and free fighters.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. That even the apostle and those of faith who were with him cried: "When will come the help of God?" Ah, verily, the help of God is always near. [Koranic verse]

Amid this fierce fighting waged by our people, who are equipped with long revolutionary experience and with deep awarenes and faith, our enemies are retreating in abject failure. The Zionist dreams are being crushed by this Palestinian child, this Palestinian woman, these Palestinian people. Campaigns of terror and murder, which they launch against our people, children, and women in the occupied homeland, will not benefit them. The air, land, and sea aggressions against our people and hero fighters in southern Lebanon will not benefit them.

The crimes of the herds of settlers, whom they use in their criminal, racist, and fascist war, will not benefit them. Their crimes against our sacred places, our mosques, and churches will not benefit them. And I also say that memorandums of threats and warning sent by their ally, the U.S. Administration, to the PLO and its leadership, will not benefit them. These people are stronger than all of their previous, present, and future leaders. You know that I have always repeated this. Our people are stronger than all of their leaders. We are great people—people with faith and conviction. Our people's will is part of God's will and our will must triumph. God has his troops who carry out his word.

Today, on the first day of this blessed 'Id al-Fitr, you are turning the ground into fire and flames, as always. You are turning the ground into burning fire under the feet of these fascist killers, the racist Zionists. Glory to your great, strong arms; glory to your creative, faithful will, which will not bow until you realize decisive victory.

Again, I send you greetings of pride and love on this good, blessed occasion. We will be together and side by side. We will write a new history for our people and nation with letters of fire and light to realize our inalienable rights over our independent, free land. Glory and imortality to our righteous martyrs. Greetings and love to the generations of the uprising. Blessings and greetings to the children of the RPG's in Beirut and steadfast southern Lebanon. Greetings and love to our wounded, prisoners, and detainees. Greetings and love to all of our people—children, women, and men. Our celebration will be when we return to holy Jerusalem, the capital of our free, independent state.

Revolution until victory. Your brother Abu 'Ammar.

Khalaf Denies 'Arafat Meeting With U.S. Official

JN1505121688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Doha, 15 May (QNA)—Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf has reiterated the Palestinians' rejection of the U.S. peace initiative on the Mideast, affirming that this plan seeks to save Israel from the impasses in which it has been placed by the popular Palestinian uprising. He added that this initiative is not based on any change in the U.S. stand toward the Middle East conflict.

In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, Khalaf said that this uprising is not a spontaneous one. He added there are eight phases for this uprising and that it will continue unabated until it reaches the phase of civil disobedience without the use of arms so as not to give the Zionist enemy the excuse to crush the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Khalaf affirmed that the uprising leadership has the final say regarding developing the form of the uprising according to the capabilities available.

Salah Khalaf denied what has been circulated to the effect that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a meeting with a senior U.S. official, indicating that this is a rumor leaked following the recent visit to Tunisia by Vernon Walters, the United States' UN representative. However, he added that such a meeting has not materialized at all.

On relations between the PLO and Syria, Khalaf pointed out that there are differences between the two sides on the PLO's relationship with Egypt and the issue of Palestinian meetings with Israeli forces. He added that the Palestinian meetings with Israeli forces represent a basic part of the PLO's strategy in the region and went on to say it is not easy to relinquish such meetings. However, he continued: Nothing prevents us from discussing these issues and talking about them.

Khalaf said the Soviet stand toward the PLO has not changed, pointing out that such a change would not be in the Soviet Union's interests, "as it would continue to need to maintain a presence in the Arab homeland even if such a change materializes. However, the issue that helps maintain strong Soviet ties with the Arab homeland is the strong and advanced Soviet stand toward the Palestine question, compared with the stands adopted by the West on this question."

PLO Official Notes U.S. Spokesman's Statement

JN1705095288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 May (WAKH)—A PLO official has said that Washington's continuous accusations against the PLO and its leadership of planning and instigating terrorism reveal the U.S. Administration's premeditated serious intentions against the PLO and its leadership.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published here today in reply to yesterday's statement by a spokesman for the U.S. State Department regarding PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's statement in which he accused the United States of being involved with Israel in the assassination of Palestinian struggler Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the Palestinian official added that, for the second time in a week, the official U.S. spokesman accuses the PLO and its leadership of planning and instigating terrorism following the crime of assassinating Abu Jihad about which Israeli officials had made official statements in which they said the United States had prior knowledge of and approved the crime.

The Palestinian official said these statements were carried by Israeli and U.S. media, particularly the U.S. television network CNN, which carried a report on these statements in a dispatch by its correspondent in Jerusalem. He said U.S. officials did not comment on the Israeli officials' statements at the time. However, he said the U.S. officials became very angry when Yasir 'Arafat repeated these statements quoting U.S. and Israeli news media.

DFLP Calls for 'Democratic' Reforms in PLO

JN1605060588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] The DFLP yesterday called for democratic organizational and financial reforms within the PLO institutions to meet the political and financial needs of the people in the occupied territories.

In a statement issued in Damascus, the DFLP said it has become essential to incorporate fighters, scholars, and educated people into the PLO institutions to develop and promote them. These institutions, it added, should be purged from the bureaucratic cadres which have become a heavy burden on the PLO. The DFLP called on the Palestinian organizations to intensify their operations against military and economic targets in Israel.

Algeria

Diplomatic Ties With Morocco Restored; Statement

LD1605205888 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 May 88

[Joint statement issued with Morocco on the occasion of the restoration of diplomatic ties; date, place of statement not given]

[Text] As part of the Algerian-Moroccan dialogue, a delegation from the Kingdom of Morocco, consisting of Ahmed Reda Guedira and Driss Basri, visited Algeria on 15 May 1988. During this visit, which was one of the contacts made—especially over the past few weeks—between the two sister countries, the Moroccan delegation was received by His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and party secretary general.

The delegation also held political talks with an Algerian delegation consisting of Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Larbi Belkheir, and El Hadi Khdiri. At the end of these talks, and proceeding from the united destiny of the two fraternal Algerian and Moroccan peoples, and from their determination to develop relations of [word indistinct], good-neighborliness, and continuous cooperation between them;

Out of their desire to accelerate the building of the Greater Maghreb;

Out of their constant desire to contribute to the consolidation of Arab ranks around the sacred cause of the Palestinian people by giving support in every way to the heroic uprising in the occupied territories, and by intensifying Arab collective action for the purpose of attaining the national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their state on their soil, and the liberation of all occupied Arab territories, including the holy city of Jerusalem;

Out of their desire to reinforce African unity and the development and liberation of its peoples;

Out of their eagerness to ensure the success of international efforts to encourage good offices to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict in Western Sahara through a free referendum on self-determination to be conducted in an atmosphere of complete sincerity and free from all pressures;

Out of their desire to reaffirm the total validity of all treaties, agreements, and [word indistinct] signed between the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco;

And inspired by the noble teachings of Islam in the blessed month of Ramadan, they have decided to restore diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco effective 29 Ramadan 1408, corresponding to 16 May 1988.

Morocco's Hassan, Bendjedid Exchange Greetings

LD1705082288 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Following the Algerian-Moroccan joint communique on the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries, His Majesty King Hassan II had a telephone conversation with His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and congratulated him on the qualitative step which has been achieved thanks to the wisdom and the righteous policy which Algeria has continuously followed in its Arab and international relations. His majesty also congratulated his excellency on the advent of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr and prayed to Almighty God that the occasion will bring blessings, good omens, more prosperity, and progress to the Algerian and Moroccan peoples.

Likewise, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid also congratulated and greeted his majesty the king on this occasion and stressed Algeria's determination to improve its relations with the sisterly kingdom in a way which will serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples and achieve their aspirations for the great Arab Maghreb, as a further step toward attaining comprehensive Arab unity.

Egypt

Security Forces Clash With Fundamentalists

NC1705101588 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Cairo, May 17 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces clashed here Monday with Moslem fundamentalists, leaving nearly 80 people injured, including 28 policemen, the daily AL-AHRAM reported Tuesday.

Moslem extremists in the Rud al-Faraj section were prevented from imposing their demand that the 'Id al-Fitr feast—marking the end of the holy month of fasting, Ramadan—be celebrated Monday, a day earlier than stipulated by Egypt's Ministry of Islamic Guidance.

Ten fundamentalists were arrested in the confrontation, the paper said.

Police also arrested 85 extremists for distributing anti-government leaflets and advocating "jihad" or holy war against authorities. They had been holed up in Al-Ikhlas mosque in Cairo's Imbabah District for three days, where they were caught with knives and chains, according to AL-AHRAM.

In other developments, taxi drivers were detained in Rud al-Faraj during protests aimed at Sunday's announcement of price increases for petrol and locally-produced cigarettes.

Some 50 drivers had blocked the main street of the densely populated neighborhood in northwest Cairo after they learned of a 33 to 40 per cent hike in Egypt's subsidized oil prices.

President Mubarak Interviewed on Current Issues

NC1405175188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, 14 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has called for solidarity and the abandonment of current disputes so that an Arab force that can be heard the world over may be established. The Arab region, he added, has great potential and capabilities, and can impose peace if its peoples are united.

President Mubarak asserted the need to politically exploit, to the maximum extent, the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories so that news reports about it will not become routine. He said: We reactivated the Palestinian issue when the uprising started. When I went to the United States, Secretary of State George Shultz and American leaders began to take action. He noted that it is not sensible to reject everything, adding that Shultz' proposals contain some reasonable points and others that are not in line with our policy. Logic dictates that I should accept and discuss what is reasonable in order to develop what does not suit me.

President Husni Mubarak made these statements in an interview with Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, to be published by the paper tomorrow, Sunday, simultaneously with Egyptian papers.

Mubarak stressed that all problems can be resolved through negotiations, and that if the Arabs do not act as one body our causes will not be resolved. He added that if the Arabs are in agreement, there are no problems impossible to resolve, neither the Palestinian cause nor the Gulf war. He said: If we are in agreement, the powers which aim to enslave us will have no opportunity.

Commenting on the latest developments in the Gulf, Mubarak expressed his regret over the Kuwaiti airliner hijacking, saying: We know that Iran had a hand in this operation. We had hoped that those who perpetrated this act would be deterred and punished, so that similar acts would not be repeated in the future. He affirmed that their release unpunished is dangerous to world peace. The president voiced his belief that the Gulf war will not expand any further, as the internal situation in Iran has become generally difficult since Iraq recaptured the Al-Faw triangle. He added that Iran should abandon its arrogance and come to terms with reality so that the region's peoples may live in peace.

Replying to a question on the Israeli threats to strike the Chinese missiles procured recently by Saudi Arabia the president said: Israel's threat to Saudi Arabia is a threat to all of us as Arabs. He added that any actions taken in this regard will endanger U.S.-Arab or Soviet-Arab relations, should the United States or the Soviet Union support Israel.

The president then talked about Egyptian-Libyan relations, wondering how any Arab state can deal with a country whose leader, in this case 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, had told his supporters who tried to advise him not to be radical that "we live on extremism; without it no one will do a thing about Libya. Perhaps they never will."

The president expressed his belief that no Arab country trusts Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, not even Syria. He said that President Hafiz al-Asad, with all his cleverness, does not trust Al-Qadhdhafi, even if he denies it.

The following is the text of President Mubarak's interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH:

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, how do you view the current state of inter-Arab relations from an Egyptian perspective?

[Mubarak] Unfortunately, unacceptable differences remain, which are the cause of the weakness in the Arab position. These existing differences can be seen in the Moroccan-Algerian, Iraqi-Syrian, and Libyan-Iraqi disputes. As long as these differences exist, Arab territory will remain fertile ground for those lying in wait for the Arab world.

This is the same atmosphere of differences to which we always have focused attention and called for the need to end. We want everyone to get together so that it may become possible to form an Arab force that could make its voice heard throughout the world. This is particularly important because any observer who looks at our region objectively will find it to be one of huge resources which, if combined, would allow the people in the region to accomplish much and dictate peace. Otherwise, we will find the Arab world disintegrated and almost astray. Things become so unbelievably sensitive at times. For example, when the relationship between two heads of Arab states improves, differences must not arise with a third Arab state or with other parties as a result. In this regard, I hope the visit to Syria by Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will not create any problems between Jordan and Syria, because any such problems could have a bearing on the Palestinian issue itself.

[Al-Jarallah] But, Mr President, a state of optimism prevailed in the wake of the Amman summit, which was called the summit of reconciliation...

[Mubarak] The problem is that while some people emerge from meetings in full agreement, meaningless and unjustified differences arise later. Take the Libyan president [as received] as an example: He meets with you and smiles, but later attacks you. Al-Qadhdhafi has sent to several Arab and foreign countries envoys who complained that Egypt did not respond to his initiative. He even telephoned UAE President Shaykh Zayid and asked him to mediate. We accepted Shaykh Zayid's mediation in view of his relations with Egypt. The UAE minister of foreign affairs arrived in Egypt. I met with him and informed him of my opinion. When he went to Libya, no one met him. He was told that the colonel was inaccessible; maybe he was in Europe, no one knew, but he was not available for a meeting. This is a regrettable stand that is utterly incompatible with Arab or civilized ethics.

It seems that Al-Qadhdhafi had forgotten that the UAE foreign minister was sent as an envoy to mediate with Egypt. I am certain that not a single Arab country trusts Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, not even Syria. Even President Hafiz al-Asad, with all of his intelligence, does not trust Al-Qadhdhafi, even if he does not admit it. So as long as this is his style and the Libyan style, let us leave him alone. It suffices to hear 'Abd al-Salam Jallud's answer to some of his supporters and advocates, who were trying to advise him against fanaticism. Jallud said: We thrive on extremism, for without it no one would ever know or hear about Libya. So, how can we or any other Arab country deal with a state with such an attitude.

Therefore, it is essential for us to stop being passive and to sit together, talk without any sensitivity, and handle our problems realistically. With this in mind, not a single problem will be impossible to solve, neither the Palestinian issue nor the Gulf war. If we agree among ourselves, we will no longer have any problems. In this case, there will be no room for the major powers that want to control us under the principle of divide and conquer.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, how do you view the latest developments in the Gulf? Where is this war heading?

[Mubarak] To begin with, I wish to note that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner was both sad and regrettable. [passage indistinct]

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, in light of the mood of despair which currently prevails in Iran, do you believe it will strike at Kuwait or Saudi Arabia militarily?

[Mubarak] Iran knows that if it strikes, it will be struck, too. It is not difficult for military aircraft to cross borders and strike targets. In the past we have seen Soviet aircraft violate U.S. airspace and U.S. planes breaching Soviet airspace. Iran must not believe that the Arabs will not retaliate if it attacks any Gulf state, especially if it is a violent and strong attack. When the Arab countries see that their brothers in the Gulf have entered a serious stage, they definitely will not remain idle and leave the Gulf states alone, but will provide them with the necessary assistance, whatever that may be.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, it has been said that, in the wake of the Soviet decision to withdraw from Afghanistan, which was based on an agreement with the United States, the stand of the big powers toward the Gulf war has changed. Do you believe this?

[Mubarak] It has not changed in the real sense of the word. However, an attempt is being made at detente and coexistence. The big powers are trying to find a peaceful solution to their common issues and to avoid tension. Proceeding from their eagerness to safeguard their interests and to meet the demands of their peoples, the great powers have begun a process of detente, which was apparent in the recent Gorbachev-Reagan meeting and in the continuous meetings between the foreign ministers of the two countries. The aim of the entire process is to bring their viewpoints closer. These countries are now talking about one world with two systems. This expression was mentioned to certain Arab forces while they were in the Soviet Union and during their talk about fighting imperialism and the like. A top Soviet official told them: We are not interested now in the war against imperialism. Rather, we are striving to achieve an accord in one world with two systems. We are aiming to realize a coexistence between these two systems.

There has been a change in the Soviet ideology, which is reflected in its handling of various issues. We, as satellite states among big countries, must understand the concept of the U.S.-Soviet detente, which will affect us. We must understand this so that we will know how to deal with these countries, especially when there are changes in their attitudes about an issue of concern to us such as the Gulf war.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, do you believe that Israel's threat to strike the Chinese missiles which Saudi Arabia recently procured is a serious one?

[Mubarak] Naturally, Israel does not want any of the Arab countries to possess powerful weapons. However, Israel is not our guardian. It should not believe that every country which arms itself aims to fight Israel. Every country has its own problems and enemies. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has threatened no one, but has declared that it will strongly defend itself. Furthermore, Israel has a strong nuclear system which is more dangerous than the Saudi missiles. Israel must fully realize that Saudi Arabia is a peace-loving state with religious sacred shrines. It is a major Arab country. Israel also should realize that threats are not the way to solve problems. Israel's threat to Saudi Arabia constitutes a threat to all Arabs. I do not believe that any sensible Arab country will accept such behavior. Moreover, any action within the context of this threat will pose a great danger to U.S.-Arab or Soviet-Arab relations if either the United States or the Soviet Union were to support Israel.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, what impact will the uprising in the occupied territories have on Israel and the Palestinian issue?

[Mubarak] Unless we utilize the uprising in the best way politically, the news of the uprising will turn into a routine afffair. As soon as the uprising started, we got the process moving. I went to the United States and the U.S. Administration later sent Secretary of State Shultz on a tour of the region. The secretary of state will make another tour of the region. We must not reject everything outright because it would be unreasonable for us to say that all of Shultz' proposals or ideas are unacceptable. There must be some reasonable points and some others that are not in line with our views. Logic dictates that we must accept the reasonable points while commencing a discussion in order to bring the other points closer to our views.

We must act in this way unless, of course, the issue is one of take it or leave it, in which case we say: What is the use of talks? We have to realize that things change; what was acceptable in the past is not today. I cannot continue to reject everything because otherwise we will lose the world's sympathy, particularly since our cause is called one of wasted opportunities. Ever since the issue appeared, we have dealt in rejection only. If we want a solution to our problem, we have to be realistic.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, did you discern any flexibility in the Israeli position as a result of the uprising?

[Mubarak] We must realize that problems are not easy to resolve and that the other party will not give you a solution on a silver platter. This will never happen. We also must realize that problems can be solved only through talks. Unless we, the Arabs, agree on one thing, not one of our problems will be solved. Furthermore, unless the Palestinian factions agree among themselves, the issue will not be solved. It is essential for all Arabs to adopt a unified stand. We have to deal with whatever stands in the way of the unity of Arab action. An example of this is he who says that he will leave Libya and form an army to fight America. Why does he not fight Israel or help the uprising and leave the issue of the red Indians to American society? If we do such things, the world will not take us seriously.

[Al-Jarallah] Some people separate the uprising and the PLO.

[Mubarak] Any talk about this issue constitutes a call for a split among the Palestinian brothers. This is not in anyone's interest because we are eager to close the Palestinian ranks and to unify the Palestinian efforts both inside and outside the occupied territories. It is important in this regard to attract worldwide attention to the Palestinian issue and then to make the best possible use of this attention.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, how do you view the PLO's position with regard to the solution of the Palestinian issue? Has it changed from what it was 2 years ago?

[Mubarak] After the PLO leaders visit Moscow, hold talks there, and return, and after they meet with President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, I expect them to go to Amman for talks with King Husayn, because an agreement with Jordan is fundamental for resolving the issue. We, the Arabs, are trying to make our Palestinian brothers more flexible so that we can proceed effectively to an international conference. Some people say: You are putting all of the responsibilities and burdens on the shoulders of the Arabs and Palestinians. I admit this, because we first have to arrange the house from within, and then face the other party at a later stage. This is true simply because without this arrangement and coordination, we will go to an international conference in a state of disarray: I will say something, another one will say something else, and a third will criticize me. This would weaken all of our positions.

However, when the PLO agrees to start talks with King Husayn and when we objectively discuss the issue of an international conference among ourselves, then we can discuss an issue like the Shultz initiative. I do not curry favor with this or that. All I want is a solution to the problem. I am an Arab and an Egyptian whose goal is to achieve the pan-Arab interest. Therefore, we must discuss the good points in the initiative and the points that need to be developed further. Not everything will be developed before the negotiations start.

An international conference must begin first. The main efforts will start with it. The next step will be bilateral talks, which will require additional and real efforts. However, why should we complicate matters now, at a time when the U.S. presidential elections are about to end and when other elections will start in Israel. If matters continue to proceed on the basis of this logic, the issue will be delayed for another year.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, you have mentioned that the Israelis are different when they are negotiating than when they are not. Do you believe that during negotiations, you will be able to change the Israeli stand toward the West Bank, Gaza, and other areas?

[Mubarak] Israel does not speak with one voice. This is my belief. Let us examine the issue of several voices in Israel. There are forces which want to live in peace and which say frankly that they will agree to hand back the West Bank with some border modifications in return for peace and an end to the state of war, with which they are really fed up. At the same time, there are voices which say the opposite.

We must exploit all of this. When we sit at the negotiating table, we will discover that there are some forces in Israel which want a solution because they want to live in peace. Why should we lose these forces? I am confident—even though some will not like this—that a great deal will be achieved if we sit at the negotiating table.

The United States, a superpower, held talks with Vietnam, a small state. A soluton was reached after a long war and incalculable losses. Therefore, negotiations are an essential matter.

[Al-Jarallah] Do you believe the negotiations should be direct or through an international conference?

[Mubarak] Through an international conference, naturally. However, an international conference will necessarily develop into direct negotiations. It is not logical for a party to speak about an issue like the Golan in front of all the states of the region and the world which are participating in the conference. The mechanism of negotiations dictates that there should be methods and compromises through which negotiations take place. When a problem occurs, the other international parties at the conference or other parties will intervene as mediators or something else. As for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, logic dictates that there should be committees to discuss their status.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, in your estimation, why has Algeria not restored diplomatic relations with Egypt?

[Mubarak] Each state is free with regard to its relations. However, I want to say that if Algeria has its dignity, so does Egypt. In our relations with any Arab state, we maintain the dignity of that state [words indistinct]. But, if a state tries to twist my arm in order to restore relations with Egypt, this shall not happen. I say frankly that what exists between Algeria and us existed at one time between Iraq and us. We severed relations with Iraq. Very simply and with good will, we talked with the Iraqi president, and after a short and brotherly conversation, we agreed to issue a joint communique on the restoration of relations and the ways of restoring them. This entire matter was settled within 30 minutes over the telephone from the office of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

As for Algeria, where different viewpoints exist, it asked Egypt to send its foreign minister there to resume relations. This is shameful. Algeria should not say such things to Egypt. Had I been in Algeria's place, it would have been shameful for me to make such a request. This is absolutely impermissible and inconsistent with the Arab and Islamic principles and values that bind us. I do not wish to discuss this matter any further due to my respect for President Chadli Bendjedid, whom I appreciate and for whom I have every respect. However, I believe that nobody can accept such methods.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, how are Egyptian-Jordanian relations proceeding?

[Mubarak] They are extremely good. We are constantly coordinating our actions in all domains, especially with regard to the Palestinian issue. We meet constantly to discuss events in this arena. We also exchange views in an exceedingly successful and organized manner.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, we have observed a certain concentration on economic issues since you began your first and second presidential terms. Do you think matters are proceeding well?

[Mubarak] The economy is the basis of any problem in any country. When I started my first term of office, I organized an economic conference to discuss all of our problems, some of which have been around for more than 50 years.

During this conference, priorities were set for dealing with these problems. The first one was building the infrastructure, which meant spending huge amounts without any quick returns. Naturally, this entailed debts. Nevertheless, these are basic projects, so that matters will not go from bad to worse due to a lack of infrastructure.

We had to improve the roads, sewers, and bridges, and to renovate the factories that had been operating for scores of years. Failure to build the infrastructure and make these renovations would obviously mean a standstill and further deterioration if the infrastructure was not improved. There was no alternative to starting construction and improvement of the infrastructure, in which we have made good progress.

At the end of the current plan, the projects will be completed and operating in an excellent manner in the sectors about which we have spoken. Without improving the infrastructure, it would not have been possible to talk about any investment projects. With the condition of the utilities and the infrastructure degenerating to the lowest point, we must remember that we have spent more on communications and telecommunications projects in the plan than we had spent on similar projects during the previous 20 years.

The housing movement in Egypt, which also completely depends on the improvement of the infrastructure, has made progress. What has been built is proportionally greater than what was built during the past 25 years. I admit that this is a problem that has been continuing for approximately 28 years, and I do not imagine that it will be resolved through the implementation of one or two plans. This is impossible with the current rate of population growth.

However, by all standards and the definite figures I announced to the people in my Labor Day speech, it is certain that what has been achieved is colossal and enormous. Things are improving, but we still have many difficulties.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, is it possible to reduce population growth in Egypt?

[Mubarak] We are working on this, but it takes a long time for the results of such matters to materialize. This matter requires enormous work by officials under numerous conditions, including, of course, the social condition in Egypt. The burdens of a state [words indistinct] heavy burdens and the responsible departments have to work night and day. Personally, I am one of those who is working all the time, other than my hours of sleep. This is because we naturally face numerous and diverse problems. We need [word indistinct] solutions to such an enormous population, which we hope to control in the future. However, the operation is not easy.

[Al-Jarallah] Have the improved ties with several countries and leaders helped boost the Egyptian economy?

[Mubarak] Yes. We have been getting assistance from various quarters and this helps our economy. Good ties with other countries, particularly with our brothers in the Arab countries, have been extremely helpful.

To be frank, without help from the outside world our problems would have been more difficult to tackle. For instance, we feel that we are getting over our balance of trade problems. Last year, we imported 8 billion Egyptian pounds worth of goods. Our imports for the year before that were also equal to 8 billion. This is actually an improvement if you take into account the differences in the exchange rates. We are importing less than before.

The reason for this is that Egyptian national industries are competing more aggressively in the market. The more we improve our domestic industries and the more we modernize them, the less we will have to import. This is certainly true with regard to our production of foodstuffs.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, does not democracy, which is getting a bit noisy in Egypt, sometimes bother you in your work?

[Mubarak] Not at all. I try to be cool in my judgment. I know that the criticism occasionally borders on abuse, but this does not change the fact that I am the president and that I have the power to deal with any situation. Despite everything, we are doing fine. I believe that the people's problems should take precedence over any squabbles, if only because squabbles will never end and somebody has to rise above them. The main task is to show the people how to differentiate between right and wrong.

It is natural that the president and the government read newspaper articles, and we could rspond to them. But you should not expect me to respond to everything. I have other things to do. Writers, citizens, and specialists respond to the press. They do that without prodding or guidance, just expressing their opinions. I will not take action on every occasion or against every newspaper. Otherwise, the Egyptians will never develop the political judgment we expect them to develop and use.

Actually, the most vocal do not address the most urgent problems of the people. They worry about such issues as the freedom to form parties and the emergency laws. These are details. The main thrust of our movement is how to create jobs and build an economy which can sustain a population of over 50 million. We want to encourage investments and increase production.

[Al-Jarallah] The issues which they raise can bloat and throttle the economy. An investor who hears such big words as class privileges and agitation, would he not think twice?

[Mubarak] The people's awareness increases each day. You can see for yourself the number of people attending these meetings. If the number is big, it is because Egyptians are curious by nature. Most of those who attend any party meeting in Egypt are not party members. They just go to see what is going on. If they have fun, they stay. If not, they just leave.

As long as there is freedom, there will be violations, which are excessive at times. We can easily take measures and use our authority to stop these violations. I am capable of doing so. The problem is that we do not react to these violations and, therefore, suffer their consequences. I have done this and chosen the difficult path in order to establish a firm concept by which the Egyptian peple can differentiate between right and wrong. However, the attitude of the people and intellectuals, who depend on the fact that the president is the one who confronts every word or violation, is a negative one. Thus, a spirit of reliance on the president will prevail. I want the people themselves to interact, to express themselves, and to rectify any excess. I tell you that any insolence directed at me does not hurt me since the people know whether or not I am working in their interest. If I find myself unable to serve these people, I will not remain in my position for 1 day.

[Al-Jarallah] There are some who fear that democratic openness might affect the regime's prestige.

[Mubarak] No, the regime is capable of undertaking any action. I do not believe this will happen because every situation can be handled. However, I wonder: Where were we and where are we at present with regard to the democratic process? This process has proved that the power is for the regime, and that the regime is able to deal with the attempts to harm its prestige.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, from its experience with the democratic process in Egypt over the past years, has the people's conscience really become capable of dealing with matters objectively? Is the effective press article of the early 1980's no longer influential today?

[Mubarak] Public opinion has reached an advanced stage of maturity and has become capable of absorbing and assessing the facts. If you write 60 articles, no one will pay attention as long as they are void of explicit facts. Occasionally I am given articles containing material which contradicts facts. Some might say that people do not know and may be influenced by what has been written. I answer them: Let them write what they want because the people will get used to such a practice and they will become more aware that pounding away on imaginary issues will yield nothing.

We can continue forever writing on what is right and what is wrong and on long- and short-term assessments. However, it has been proven that he who is accustomed to deviating from the truth will fall, and that he who tries to be logical will succeed and gain the people's respect.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, in a country such as Egypt, the government represents the majority in Parliament. Why do some members of this majority abandon the government line at times to join the opposition?

[Mubarak] When voting is on a nationalistic issue, the case is completely different. On the other hand, there is nothing wrong if a member of the majority party questions a minister for a mistake or on his policy. The majority does not defend the wrong. If a minister adopts an erroneous policy, there is nothing wrong if a member of the same party emerges to argue with him, as this member has the right to express his opinion on the minister's policy or on any legislation. On national issues and resolutions, however, the majority supports its government.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, verbal battles are staged by the minority in the British Parliament. After all that, however, the issue is normally passed by the majority. That is democracy.

[Mubarak] The same scenario takes place in Egypt, taking into account the difference of experience in democracy. British democracy has been established for hundreds of years. In Egypt, it will take time for all issues and concepts to be understood. When public awareness increases, the values of freedom will become more entrenched. We endure so that public awareness may increase. However, during votes in Parliament, matters are supposed to be clear. In Britain, voting takes place and everything is resolved in accordance with the wishes of the majority.

In Egypt, the majority approves and the subject is supposed to be closed. But some decided to hold conferences and meetings at which they rejected the emergency law, for example, after it had been approved in Parliament by the majority, which is the ruling party.

Democracy must be like this, and not a dictatorship of the minority. The voice of the minority is listened to, respected, and approved if it is logical. Be assured that the people will attack any illogical decision that is reached.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, therefore, there is no room for speaking about the regime's prestige [words indistinct] democratic openness.

[Mubarak] Absolutely not. As I said, the regime uses its power to protect the people and their system under all circumstances. If a minority tries to sidestep the rules, it will be dealt with through legal means. There is no room for a loss of nerves because our behavior would become unacceptable as a result. If someone in Beirut, for instance, attacks you in an improper way, what will you do to him? I do not even confiscate printed material. Let the people read so that they may know.

Let me repeat: I have chosen a difficult path. If the idea of preserving the prestige of the regime and ruler dominates, no one knows what measures will be taken that a large number of people would support. However, preserving democracy is more important. Real democracy protects and upholds the prestige of the regime. It would be very easy to take measures to impose the prestige of the regime, if it is undermined. Then there will be no hero nor freedoms. This is something I do not accept and I will not implement.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, the state subsidizes bread at the rate of 1 billion pounds?

[Mubarak] No one knew this until I disclosed it. The bread subsidy reaches or exceeds 1.7 billion pounds.

[Al-Jarallah] Would it not be better for the state to distribute this amount in the form of salaries?

[Mubarak] This would mean its distribution among state employees. But, there are people who do not work in government departments. What will I do to them? Talking is easy. Former Prime Minister Dr 'Ali Lutfi told me that subsidies should reach those who deserve it in the form of cash. I encouraged him on this. When they started searching for those who deserve subsidies, they failed. Proposals were made, including one which called for determining subsidy payments on the basis of the electricity bill. They were all impractical ideas.

Large sections of the people who live in villages are very needy and require more and more subsidies. Subsidies are an inevitable evil. I have said that a time will come when subsidies will gradually diminish because the state cannot bear them. However, we must take the life of the poor people into consideration. The question is more complicated than it seems on the surface. We must deal with it quietly so as not to stir sensitivities and so that subsidies will reach those who deserve them.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, in your estimation, when will Egypt no longer need to import food?

[Mubarak] We are doing all we can. However, we cannot achieve self-sufficiency in wheat in the short term because vast areas of land are needed. Any expansion in the area needed to plant wheat will be at the expense of cotton, which is a source of foreign currency earnings.

However, I expect a reduction in imports in general. This will be accomplished by increasing industrialization, expanding the agricultural areas, and increasing food production. A good indicator is that while we used to import rice during the first 5-year development plan, we now export it.

The list of items which we import has diminished. We used to import beans, but have now increased its production. The same applies to sugar cane and beetroot. In the first 5-year plan, the industrial sector was in a shambles and production was in bad shape both qualitatively and quantitatively. The situation was so bad that some factories began importing from abroad.

I used to visit the factories. A total of 7.77 billion pounds were spent in that plan on purchasing new equipment for these factories. They now produce the best clothes at unbelievably inexpensive prices.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, do you not think that there is a need to modernize the free zones?

[Mubarak] We are thinking about setting up a free zone on the Gulf to the east of Suez, in which assembly and export projects could be established. Other sites have also been suggested for building similar zones. But these zones should engage mostly in exports, rather than selling to our local markets. Of course, if we need to import from them we will do exactly that. But the practice is meant to offer them the chance to produce at a lower cost and export to the same markets as before. We offer them a better business climate, a cheap supply of labor, and, on occasion, a chance to sell into our local markets.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, certain security breaches have taken place in your country. Are matters better now?

[Mubarak] I should think so.

[Al-Jarallah] It would be hard to leave out the compelling question of Egypt's revolution, the position of Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir in the case, and your views of the whole issue.

[Mubarak] It is mind-boggling and saddening that one of the defendants in the case is the son of the late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. The members of this group have harmed themselves, their families, and their country. They obtained money, but accomplished nothing. Money cannot transform a person into another Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. At any rate, the case is now before the court. I thank God for the known probity and independence of the Egyptian courts. Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir himself would have taken severe action against his son had he done this during his lifetime.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, much is being said about the activities of the investment companies and we have not heard any comments from you!

[Mubarak] You will not. I would rather wait and see. I am not going to comment.

[Al-Jarallah] But, do you not think that the government may act too late and that investors may get hurt in the meantime? There is also the danger that government action would do some harm.

[Mubarak] To be frank, there will be some harm done whether the government acts or not. The government, if it takes action, will seek to protect the rights of the investors. The investment companies are making and breaking mergers at will and nobody sees their projects. The government is currently reviewing the laws organizing their operations. They all obtained their licenses in the late 1970's, just before I took office. I am not giving them any more licenses and will not allow them to set up investment banks. The people will just have to be careful where they put their money and avoid taking too great a risk.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, there are reports that the Saudi monarch will visit Egypt. Have the final arrangements for the visit been made?

[Mubarak] Yes, His Majesty King Fahd will visit Egypt shortly, but agreement on the exact date of the visit has not yet been reached.

[Al-Jarallah] Mr President, 6 months after the restoration of diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Arab states, is the movement of Arab investment in Egypt proceeding well?

[Mubarak] Yes, the movement of Arab investment in Egypt is proceeding reasonably well. For our part, we have greatly eased the laws on the ownership of buildings and land. We are ready to deal with all these matters flexibly.

[Al-Jarallah] But will the amendments introduced to the laws of [word indistinct] reclamation of lands last, or will there will be other amendments?

[No answer as received]

[Al-Jarallah] Will this continue despite the presence of internal pressures pushing in the opposite direction?

[Mubarak] What are these pressures?

[Al-Jarallah] I imagine that there are some parties demanding an end to the open-door policy.

[Mubarak] I have stated my opinion on this subject. Let everyone say what he wants. I have no prejudice toward these views.

[Al-Jarallah] But Mr President, some say that Egyptian lands will be sold to Zionist companies as a consequence of the new amendments.

[Mubarak] First, we must not believe everything we hear. Second, and this is important, no land will be sold without my personal approval.

I know very well to whom any land will be sold. For many reasons, and because the land issue is a sensitive one, the legal text on the sale of land states that this shall be done with the approval of the Council of Ministers and through the decision of the president of the Republic.

The world is developing. It is no longer governed by totalitarian ideologies. The whole world is watching the long-term open-door policies that have been adopted in the Soviet Union. Even McDonald's, which makes sandwiches, has opened branches in Soviet territory. We are developing the open-door policy and trying to correct any negative aspects that appear. This is the logic that governs Egyptian activity.

Details of Security Accord With Saudis Revealed

NC1605091188 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
13 May 88 p 9

[Text] Cairo—Amin Radwan—The visit by Saudi King Fahd to Cairo early in June, the first of its kind in 13 years, will crown a rapprochement that started when President Husni Mubarak came to office in 1981. This rapprochement recently took the form of official security agreements.

Yesterday AL-SAFIR obtained new details about the Egyptian-Saudi agreement under the terms of which groups from the special operations units of the Egyptian Armed Forces will help to protect the holy places and Saudi airports during the pilgrimage season in about 2 months' time.

According to informed sources, the Egyptian-Saudi agreement was signed in Riyadh 1 month ago in the presence of a senior Egyptian official, probably Dr Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser. Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz signed on behalf of Saudi Arabia. The title of the document is "Agreement between Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Security Cooperation and Combating Terrorism."

The sources added that units from the Egyptian security forces had already been sent to Saudi Arabia before the signing of the agreement , which also calls for coordination and the exchange of expertise during the pilgrimage season.

The sources also reported that the Saudi authorities have decided to treat the Egyptian units exactly the same as the Saudi National Guard troops with regard to salaries and allowances. They will also receive bonuses equal to three times their salary for their period of duty in Saudi Arabia up to the end of the pilgrimage season. Other groups will join these units by the end of June.

According to the sources, this agreement allows both countries to request a limited number of troops to carry out specific anti-terrorist and riot control tasks. The number of these troops will be decided through bilateral consultations to be held by a four-man Saudi-Egyptian committee, which will also draw up the details of any task to be carried out in implementation of the agreement.

The sources added that the agreement is for 3 years, from 1 May 1988 until April 1991, and is renewable with the consent of the two parties. The sources also said that the agreement permits both countries to benefit from the various training programs being organized for the special forces charged with confronting riots and terrorism. It also allows for "equipped forces," that is, forces equipped with all their weapons, to be dispatched at the request of either of the two countries. Administrative matters and training costs will be channeled through a joint budget for the agreement that does not stipulate equal sharing as a condition.

It is recalled that Egypt set up the special units for combating terrorism and public disorder in 1979 after studying the negative aspects of the way in which the uprising of 18-19 January 1977 was handled. The number of these units was doubled in the wake of political events after the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat. These units helped train similar units in Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Extension of Emergency Powers Assailed

PM1305100988 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
10 May 88 p 5

[Dr Muhammad Hilmi Murad article: "Do Not Rule a People by Terror"]

[Excerpts] As usual, President Husni Mubarak delivered a political speech on Labor Day, this year attacking the opposition in an unprecedented manner. He insisted on considering rule by the emergency law, which exposes our fellow citizens to detention and torture and our towns and villages to disciplinary campaigns, relying on a fabricated majority in the People's Assembly that emerged after the nation's will was rigged and judicial rulings were not implemented—unrivaled democratic rule. [passage omitted]

In his speech President Mubarak ridiculed the method of issuing statements and holding rallies to protest the extension of the state of emergency for a further 3 years (and we do not know why it was not extended to cover the entire second presidential term). He thought it to be "a storm in a teacup!"

He also mocked the parliamentary opposition's withdrawal in protest from the People's Assembly at the sudden decision to extend the state of emergency before the end of its current term and without holding a considered and lengthy debate. He called it a "theatrical withdrawal!"

We would like to ask: If the president scorns the method of statements and rallies and is not convinced of the effectiveness of withdrawing in protest—a point on which I agree with his excellency, since in fact, my lack of belief in this method in general was the reason why I quit party work—will his excellency agree to much stronger and more effective methods being used, such as the collective resignation of opposition representatives from the People's Assembly, or the organization of peaceful processions and collective sit-ins?

Or does he want us to do nothing at all? And thereby accept the fait accompli imposed on the people by the ruling authority in the form of a sword of terrorism now hanging over the people's necks under the title "state of emergency," which hampers public and personal liberties stipulated by the Constitution and makes the president of the Republic a military ruler delegating his powers, or some of them, to the prime minister, the interior minister, and governors. Such powers have led to thousands of citizens being detained at random and defendants being tortured until they made false confessions that they had attempted to kill two former interior ministers and the chief editor of a government magazine. Old people as well as housewives were kept hostage. Peasants were expelled from the lands they cultivated for influential people and their families. Opposition representatives of the People's Assembly have been denied free movement; in fact, they were even physically assaulted—something unprecedented in parliamentary life in Egypt!

True, no politicians or journalists have been detained, but is it honorable or patriotic for politicians or journalists to keep silent simply because the state of emergency has not been applied to them, while the Central Security's campaigns are launched to discipline villages and towns, terrifying their inhabitants and destroying their homes and furniture? [passage omitted]

The announcement of the state of emergency in Egypt cannot in any way be compared with the laws passed to combat terrorism in some European states. This is because such laws are clearly and legally confined to cases of armed terrorism. Whereas our government refuses to confine the state of emergency to such cases, except when it promises the People's Assembly before every renewal that it will confine it to armed terrorism (the last time it included cases of trading in drugs). But when it comes to practical implementation the security authorities do not adhere to this. [passage omitted]

We would like the president to ask the Interior Ministry to submit a list of the terrorist acts that the state of emergency has prevented, including their circumstances, the persons involved in them, the dates they were uncovered, the investigations conducted in this regard, and the number under which they were registered, so that the facts will be revealed. [passage omitted]

As for the attacks on the Israelis and the Americans, it was the U.S. Embassy which uncovered them after one of the Egyptians involved informed it—which, in view of the embassy's inquiries, collection of evidence, and interrogation, is in fact an attack on Egypt's security and judicial sovereignty over its territory! Besides, terrorism on the part of individuals should not be met with terrorism on the part of the state because state terrorism can breed counterterrorism.

True, it is the duty of the security authorities to uncover arms and explosives prepared for terrorist acts and pursue the perpetrators of such acts in order to hand them over to the investigating authority. But, this does not mean the state should consider all the sons of the people to be terrorists and impose a state of emergency on them! Nor should the security organs be allowed to resort to provoking some elements of the nation, thus forcing them to turn to violence. Nor should the state ignore the reasons that led to terrorist acts or the use of violent methods. It should work toward remedying and eliminating them. Undoubtedly true democracy, not bogus democracy, is the best remedy for eliminating the climate of terrorism and violence. [passage omitted]

Can efforts possibly be pooled in this atmosphere of accusations and provocations, especially when the president declares that it is he who possesses the facts and he alone who can make the correct decisions? Where is the Shura then? And where are the opinions of others? And what is the role of the opposition if it is not allowed to oppose and if it is unacceptable for it to cooperate and advise? Is this true democracy?

If the president is talking about a democracy in the form of freedom of expression in party papers, it is in fact freedom of screaming that no one wants to hear; it is intended for malcontents to let off steam.

And if the president is declaring that democracy means that decisionmaking belongs to the majority, it is obvious that such a majority must come via free and impartial elections, not rigged elections that do not represent the nation's will.

So can we expect President Mubarak, in the interest of Egypt and its people, to reconsider the situation as a whole in isolation from the reports submitted by tendentious people?

Libya

Lebanese Party Leader Junblatt Arrives 16 May

LD1605193288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1731 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 16 May (JANA) — Brother Walid Junblatt, head of the Progressive Socialist Party of Lebanon, arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to the JANA representative at Tripoli International Airport, Brother Junblatt said: The purpose of my visit to the Great Jamahiriyah is to examine and discuss developments and issues in the Arab arena. He added that we are in need of more of these meetings more than ever.

JANA Editor Comments on Carlucci Statement

LD1605132688 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Tripoli 16 Al-Ma'a—JANA—Frank Carlucci, the U.S. secretary of war [as received], has announced that the Libyan Arab force has become a threat to the Zionists. Carlucci added, in an address before the American-Zionist public relations committee, which is the main Zionist lobby in America, that his department is looking for ways to help the Zionists improve their Navy in order to face the growing Libyan might.

JANA's Arab affairs editor has these comments on Carlucci's statement:

1. The U.S. Administration does not need to find any more reasons for its total bias toward the Zionist enemy, a bias which has reached a level making it impossible to distinguish between the United States and this enemy.

2. There is only one factor prompting a greater U.S. bias — to a certain degree, an organic bond — toward the Zionists—that is, their common enmity for the Arab nation which has effectively begun to wage, as recent and historical evidence prove, a prelude for a crusade and a racist war against the Arabs which is also part of the U.S. imperialist fantasy to extend its hegemony and transform the world into Yankee fiefs.

3. The U.S. Administration has announced its fear of the developing Libyan Arab force because it is aware that this force being built by the Libyan Arab people has become, within the framework of the unitary pan-Arab Al-Fatih revolution, a force for the whole Arab nation and ready at any time to defend this nation against anyone who is hostile to it or seeking its elimination.

The editor asks who gave the United States the right to be an international arbitrator who assesses and evaluates whether others' forces constitute what it calls dangers. It is, according to the upside-down U.S. logic, dangerous that the free peoples and nations possess an amount of force which enables them to defend themselves, insure their existence, and guarantee the fate of their future generations.

The JANA Arab political affairs editor concludes by stressing that the building of the Arab deterence force and the uprising of the armed people is a fateful choice for the Libyan Arab people. This is related to the Arabs' freedom, the safeguarding of the Arab nation, and the peace and security of the world.

However, if there is a danger threatening the world, it can only come from the Zionist enemy transplanted by the evil forces into the heart of the Arab nation and enabled to expand by the U.S. war machine. The Zionists' crimes have surpassed those committed by the Nazis during World War II. Danger also comes from the destructive tools of the U.S. arsenal, sown by the U.S. war administration in various parts of the world to undermine peace, destroy the world, and encourage destruction.

Sudan

Further Reportage on Hotel Blast, Club Attack

Investigations Continue

JN1605111788 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 16 May (SUNA) — Seven [as received] people were killed in a bomb explosion at the Acropol Hotel in the center of Khartoum at 2000 last night, Sunday, and in a simultaneous armed attack on the Sudan Club with machineguns and tear gas shells.

Among those killed were two children, one woman, and four men — who were foreign citizens — in addition to a Sudanese girl. A large number of the hotel's occupants were wounded, including a number of foreigners and diplomats. Eyewitnesses said the explosion occurred while residents were having dinner.

Information said that eight of the wounded are being treated inside the American Embassy. Two of them are Americans, while the rest are Canadians and Dutch.

A responsible source at the accident section in the Khartoum Hospital said that a Briton called Paul Maxwell [name as received] is now in the resuscitation room. There is a wounded Swede in the resuscitation room.

On the other hand, a responsible source in the police department noted that the people among the seven mentioned at the beginning of this report were killed and a Sudanese was wounded in the armed attack on the Sudan Club.

Sources at police headquarters said a number of suspects, including foreigners, were arrested. A state of alert was declared in the police and security departments. Investigations continued to identify the culprits of the two incidents.

A news report said that a senior official from the U.S. Embassy was at the Acropol Hotel a short while before the explosion occurred. Eyewitnesses said that cars with diplomatic plates and officials from the U.S. Embassy took part in evacuating the wounded from the site of the incident.

It is noteworthy that the Acropol Hotel is located in the center of Khartoum and is visited by a number of diplomats and officials from voluntary organizations.

AFP: 8 Killed, 17 Injured

NC1605153888 Paris AFP in English 1437 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, May 16 (AFP)—A British family of four were among eight people killed Sunday night in bomb and grenade attacks against a luxury hotel and a British social club here that also injured 17 others, mostly foreigners, a senior police official said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Acropol Hotel, which claimed seven lives, and the attack against the nearby Sudan Club, in which one man, a European, died. Both occurred as a new government was being sworn in at the presidential palace.

Police Colonel Mu'tasim 'Uthman Karim said the victims at the Acropol included a British couple, their two children and a European woman identified as Sally Fokky, whose nationality was not immediately known. He said Ms. Fokky was believed to be married to a Sudanese and worked for a relief organization.

The other two victims of the dinnertime bombing of the dining room of the Acropol Hotel were a Sudanese Brigadier 'Umar 'Abd al-Majid, and a waiter identified only as Al-Khayr.

The Acropol Hotel houses the Sudan headquarters of several relief organizations.

Colonel Karim, an explosives expert, said he believed the bomb was made in the Soviet Union.

The British family of four, which included two children aged one and three, was on a humanitarian assignment to Sudan, the Foreign Office said in London. A fifth Briton was injured in the attack, the Foreign Office said.

A machine-gun attack was carried out at the same time at the nearby Sudan Club, a British social club, where one European was killed.

The Cairo-based Middle East News Agency (MENA) said 35 people had been arrested, including several Syrians and Lebanese. [passage omitted]

Ministry Statement on Attack

LD1605180588 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 MAY 88

[Text] The Interior Ministry has issued the following statement on developments arising from the bomb explosion which occurred yesterday evening in Khartoum:

Dear citizens: The Interior Ministry would like to stress to citizens its resolute wish to convey to the citizens all the facts which the police bodies have obtained to date on the scope and effects of the bomb explosion and gunfire at the Acropol Hotel and the British Club.

The Ministry expresses its regret to citizens and foreigners for the inconvenience which resulted from security measures taken and, in particular, the obvious effects on the movement of those traveling on the sacred holiday of 'Id.

The investigations and measures following the incident have revealed essential facts which have made it possible to direct an accusation against a group of people. The police were able, with the help of citizens, to arrest three people who were carrying Lebanese passports. They had entered the country on the pretext of business. Eyewitnesses confirmed their involvement in this horrific crime. This was also confirmed by material evidence consisting of weapons and ammunition which were discovered. Some of them attempted to dispose of these and of the clothes which they were wearing.

This barbarous crime, which was aimed against the country's security and stability and which jeopardized our citizens and foreign guests' lives and property, caused the following deaths: seven people died from the use of explosives and firearms, including five foreigners who have not yet been identified and two Sudanese who happened to be at the scene at the time of the incident. They are: Ibrahim 'Abd al-Majid, a visitor, and (Ager Khalaf Allah) a worker in the hotel.

The following were injured in the incident and have been admitted to hospital: (Gular Atong), Egyptian, in serious condition; (Mol Marco), British, in serious condition; (Mathew Malakal), from Bangladesh, admitted to hospital; (Rugah Unaydah), Sudanese, treated and discharged; Mahmud Muhammad Mahmud, Sudanese, admitted to hospital; (Darwi Wajkar), Polish, treated and discharged; 'Abd al-Hafiz Faraj 'Uthman, Sudanese, admitted to hospital; (Ramadan Jack Akwir), Sudanese, admitted to hospital; Musa Hamid Muhammad, Sudanese, treated and discharged; and (Derek Raygy), British, treated and discharged.

A group of the injured were also moved out of the hospital for treatment, including some Americans and Frenchmen, bringing the number of those injured to 21.

Investigations continued and help was sought from explosives experts, forensic laboratories, and police dogs, making it possible to identify those accused from personal articles which were found. The residences of the detained were also searched and material evidence was found.

The Interior Ministry would like to stress to the honorable citizens and to our foreign guests its determination to do its utmost to arrive at the complete facts and requests anyone who has any useful information related to this matter to contact the police bodies. Success is God.

3 Lebanese Arrested

NC1605174388 Paris AFP in English 1724 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, May 16 (AFP)—A British family of four were among eight people killed Sunday night in bomb and machine-gun attacks against a luxury hotel and a British social club here that also injured 21 others, mostly foreigners, officials said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing of the Acropol Hotel, which claimed seven lives, and the attack against the nearby Sudan Club, in which one man, a European, was killed.

The Interior Ministry said three men carrying Lebanese passports were arrested in possession of weapons and explosives. A communique said they were identified by witnesses at both attacks. [passage omitted]

Regional Governors Relieved of Duties

LD1605161688 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Mr Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister, issued a decree yesterday releasing the governors of the northern regions and the commissioner of the national capital from their posts. The General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers stated that the governors and the commissioner would continue to carry out their duties until the end of the Ramadan fast.

Oil Minister Returns From Romania, Comments

JN1605082188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 May (INA) — Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim returned to Baghdad at dawn today after leading the Iraqi side to the meetings of the 10th session of the Iraqi-Romanian joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, which ended in Bucharest yesterday.

In a statement to INA, 'Abd al-Rahim said that the minutes of the committee's meetings signed with the Romanian side calls for reinforcing economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation.

He added that he met with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, who expressed his country's desire to strengthen and develop relations with Iraq.

The Romanian president also expressed his country's support for Security Council Resolution No 598 and for implementing it, 'Abd al-Rahim said.

Armed Forces Command Issues Communique No 3,180

JN1605174388 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 May 88

[Communique No 3,180 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our units' activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. Our bold Air Force carried out 108 combat missions in the operational sectors through which they inflicted on the enemy losses in personnel, equipment, and weapons.

This afternoon, our planes launched a successful raid on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast and dealt it an accurate and effective blow. After completing all their duties, our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Today, our helicopter gunships carried out 69 combat missions, inflicting further losses on the aggressors.

Afterward, they returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

3. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector pounded groups of scoundrels, killing 21 of them and wounding others.

Moreover, two DShK machine guns, two vehicles, and one gun emplacement were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

4. One enemy soldier was killed, one ammunition dump was blown up, and two single-barreled machineguns and three infantry positions were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. An enemy patrol was pounded, killing two of its personnel and wounding others.

Two infantry positions were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. The criminal enemy shelled residential areas in the village of Darband-i Khan with long-range artillery.

The enemy shelling injured civilians and damaged civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 May 1988

Shamir Describes Arab Missiles as 'Threat'

TA1705160888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that the medium- and long-range surface-to-surface missiles that have been introduced into various Middle Eastern armies are a threat to Israel. He added that there had been frequent warnings about this situation in the past.

Shamir made these comments to the participants in the sixth convention of the Weizman Institute. The prime minister also noted that Israel wants peace, but is not finding partners to such negotiations. Here is our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat with an excerpt of Shamir's remarks:

[Begin recording] [Shamir—in English] The so-called moderates refuse to come to the negotiating table unless they are accompanied by the extremists and rejectionists. The latter will have nothing to do...

[Ben-Porat translates and continues] Shamir added that the extremists are unwilling to negotiate with us without posing conditions we cannot accept. Therefore, we have no one to negotiate with. [end recording]

Peres Comments on Meeting With Shultz 16 May

TA1605173388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres began his visit in Washington today. At present he is a guest at a dinner hosted by the Israeli ambassador in Washington, also attended by the U.S. secretaries of state and defense, the White House chief of staff, and leaders of the U.S. Congress. Earlier Peres held the first of three planned meetings with George Shultz. Following the meeting, Mr Peres told our correspondent in Washington Shim'on Schiffer that most of the meeting was devoted to the difficulties in the peace process:

[Begin recording] [Peres] We do not intend to surrender to these difficulties. We do not deny that they exist and do not downplay them. The discussion centered on ways of overcoming them.

[Schiffer] Do you not think that the fact that elections are imminent both here and in Israel means that we should take a time-out until the elections are over in the two countries?

[Peres] I am not sure that the time-out would be properly construed in the Middle East. It might be seen as a reflection of great despair. Despair could result in new military coalitions and the resumption of the arms race, as well as inviting irresponsible intervention such as the supply of surface-to-surface missiles by China. We are all aware of the fact that the elections are upcoming. I believe, however, that the two parties support the continuation of the peace process, each party with its own nuances. We should be interested in seeing to it that the forces in the Arab world who are not interested in falling into the grasp of fundamentalism, extremism, and the rejectionist-front do not find themselves without any hope of continuing with the peace process.

[Schiffer] How does Mr Shultz explain his decision to come to the Middle East in view of all these difficulties?

[Peres] By his firm resolve to pursue the peace process. He believes that even if the U.S. elections decide other things they do not signal an end to the peace process. [end recording]

Shamir on Soviet Stand, Syrian Moves in Lebanon

TA1605163688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Shamir does not see a significant change in the Soviet stand on the Middle East and is not impressed by remarks by Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress, who met with him after arriving on a direct flight from Moscow. Here is our correspondent Natan Gutman with Shamir's remarks in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee:

The debate in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee with the participation of the prime minister covered a wide range of issues: From the Soviet stand and the drop out problem [of Jews leaving the USSR who do not come to Israel], to the intifadha [uprising] and Mubarak 'Awwad.

The prime minister opened with a gloomy picture of the growing drop out rate among those leaving the USSR. It is no longer a Zionist movement but an emigration movement, Shamir said. He promised to act to bring Jews to Israel through Budapest rather than via Vienna.

Yitzhaq Shamir played down the importance of Edgar Bronfman's declarations yesterday that the USSR is prepared to agree to an international conference without coercive powers. Bronfman let me know he would be holding the talks in Moscow, but he was not an emissary, Shamir said.

[Begin Shamir recording] The evaluations brought by Bronfman, based on his evaluations of his talks, are generally optimistic. But I do not believe that a stand can be taken, or change made in the existing position based on these impressions. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Referring to the situation in Beirut, and the conflict between Amal, Syria, and the Hizballah, Shamir said any attack on the Hizballah should be viewed positively, but that caution should be taken in regard to the Syrian moves in Lebanon. Israel is following events closely, Shamir said.

Shamir: Jordan's Stand on Peace 'More Extreme'

TA1605115688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] The prime minister said that Jordan's stand on the peace negotiations has become more extreme, as can be seen in King Husayn's statement that the PLO represents the Judaea and Samaria Arabs.

Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that speaking in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Mr Shamir expressed his opinion that Arabs in the territories are also disappointed with Husayn, and that some of them also nowadays urge direct negotiations.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT on 16 May adds that speaking in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, "Mr Shamir said that Shultz' last proposal went too far, as far as concessions to Jordan are concerned, but when Shultz arrives in the region next month, we will continue seeking ways to direct negotiations."]

The prime minister believes that Israel's acceptance of the international conference idea has made the chances of arriving at direct negotiations more remote. When this acceptance disappears, the Arabs will also embrace the idea of direct negotiations.

Addressing himself to relations with the Soviet Union, Mr Shamir said that he believes there are some matters Israel and the Soviets have to solve together. He said this in reply to a question whether he sees any shift in Moscow's stand after the talks conducted there by Edgar Bronfman, World Jewish Congress president, with Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. Mr Shamir said that he had received no message from Moscow, only impressions of Mr Bronfman's talks.

The prime minister further said that the number of Jews who leave the Soviet Union but do not arrive in Israel has grown, reaching 83 percent last month.

Rabin Not Worried About Syrian Entry Into Beirut

TA1605163588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the entrance of the Syrian Army into West Beirut should not worry Israel and the IDF. At this stage it should worry only the Syrians and the Hizballah. He made these remarks to our correspondent in the south Shim'on Elgavetz.

Peres Discusses Further Contacts With Soviets

TA1505105888 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 May 88 p 2

[Report by Orli Katz-Azulay, accompanying Foreign Minister Peres' tour]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will arrive in Washington tonight, where he will meet with President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz.

"It has already been decided that further contacts are to take place in a very near future between us and the Soviets in order to discuss both the consular delegation issue and the peace process," Shim'on Peres said yesterday in a special interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

"I do not have any particular expectations of being invited to Moscow. I do not believe that trips reflect policies. Policy itself is one big voyage. I hope the Soviets will continue to contribute to peace and to the improvement of relations with Israel."

Shim'on Peres is leaving for Washington where he will meet with President Reagan. "My visit to Washington is taking place on the eve of the Moscow summit, and I will therefore raise issues connected with the Middle East conflict in my talks with the President."

Regarding the criticism leveled at him by the Likud following his tour, Peres yesterday said: "My tour deals with the promotion of peace. The question is not what the Soviets will do, but what we are going to do. It would be a mistake if we did not pursue our efforts for peace. Are they saying that my trip is unnecessary?"

According to information recently received by Foreign Ministry officials in Jerusalem, the Soviet Union believes that the international conference should not have the authority to force a solution on the countries in the Middle East.

Novik Discusses Soviet Middle East Position

TA1405134688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 14 May 88

[Telephone interview with Nimrod Novik, political adviser to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, in Los Angeles by Yosi 'Abadi; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] ['Abadi] It seems that the Soviets are keeping relations with us on the back burner. From time to time we hear about some meeting or positive declaration, but, in general, it is hard to see any real development in our relations in recent months. Do you agree?

[Novik] It depends on whether you see the glass as half empty or half full. It depends on whether you believe our relations with the Soviets are composed of small steps, or whether they are a developing process that moves at a speed which reflects the priority the Middle East takes in the USSR. Until recently, they gave almost exclusive precedence to reaching the INF agreement with the United States and concluding an accord on their withdrawal from Afghanistan. After both of these occurred, it seems to me that the Soviet leadership gave our problem higher priority, although still not top priority.

['Abadi] Compared to previous months, do you expect more intensive activity in the Middle East in the coming months?

[Novik] That is hard to say. The Soviet leadership, like any other, deals with things according to their importance, and according to their potential to seriously advance something. According to our impressions at previous meetings, the Soviets are now very interested in promoting a Middle East settlement. They presented more flexible positions that reflected a sense of urgency. In other words, they are interested in moving ahead quickly and also seem to be saying: Since we are interested, we are presenting a more flexible position. At the same time, they gave us the feeling that the United States is not prepared to enter into a serious dialogue with them on this subject. As such, they are not certain things will move as quickly as they want.

['Abadi] How is the flexibility in the Soviet position expressed?

[Novik] This was the first time the Soviets publicly presented the structure of the international conference and the negotiating process as they see it. The first serious presentation was during the Shevardnadze-Peres meeting at the United Nations in September, but that was a private presentation. This time the position was presented publicly. There were two or three points that were certainly interesting: First, we heard from the United States and others that one of the major problems in the Soviet notion of the conference was that they saw the meeting, involving the five powers and the parties to the conflict, as the focus of the discussions. That is completely unacceptable to us. The deliberations must be in bilateral committees between ourselves and the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and also with the Syrians and Lebanese if they come along.

Their public presentation of the international conference at the Socialist International in Madrid was far closer to our positions. The USSR wants occasional plenary meetings and multifaceted committees dealing with questions of common interest, such as Middle East economic development. However, they certainly accept the thesis that the parties to the conflict will do the major work and search for solutions, and that it is inconceivable to have an arrangement whereby anyone could force solutions on anyone else.

The Soviets said they would not take part in such an arrangement, as that would ensure that the settlement would not last. After all, if one side tries to impose a solution, the other will look for the earliest opportunity to violate it.

['Abadi] How do the Soviets describe the urgency of the situation?

[Novik] Similar to the way Shim'on Peres would if you were interviewing him now. In other words, if nothing happens before or during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, the process will stagnate for about a year while the U.S. and Israeli election campaigns heat up. That is to say, until some time in mid-1989, once the new administration in Washington settles in. Like us, they fear that, unless regional peace is promoted, we will see different developments, and within a year we might not recognize the area.

['Abadi] A few words on the visit to Hungary. Apparently, the Hungarians did not view the visit as warmly as we expected. They defined the trip as unofficial and called Shim'on Peres president of the Labor Party. They did not use his government title. How do you see this?

[Novik] They told us their reasons very clearly. I relate it to the known sensitivity to reactions in other capitals. I do not mean the East bloc, but rather the Arab world.

The talks were very serious and to the point. Sometimes it is hard for us to understand how the USSR, Hungary, or any other country views what the Arab world will say about contacts with us. It looks different when seen inside the Soviet capital or an East European one. They are sensitive to what we say about their position.

['Abadi] Do you feel that a genuine attempt is being made to form ties with Israel, or is it a way of drawing closer to the United States?

[Novik] We should not fool ourselves. I think it is a combination of the two. They are undoubtedly sending a signal to the United States in particular and the West in general that Hungary has been largely successful in implementing its progressive policy for several years. At the same time, they have concrete ties with us, mainly in the economic sphere—bilateral trade and joint projects between Hungary and Israel, and cooperation in third countries. The schedule was very serious, but we are not blind to the U.S. and West European aspect of this approach. If the importance of attracting Washington brought Al-Sadat to Jerusalem, which led to a peace settlement, and this led to a peace settlement, it would not be so terrible if others were to think the same way.

['Abadi] Nimrod Novik, thank you very much.

[Novik] Thank you.

Replacements for Soviet Diplomats Permitted

TA1505141188 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
15 May 88 p A2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar]

[Text] Foreign Ministry officials say the Soviet Union will approve the Israeli diplomatic delegation's visas within 2 weeks. The Israeli delegation has the same diplomatic status as the Soviet consular delegation which has been in Israel since 14 July 1987. The Soviets' visas are due to expire in about 1 month.

Dr Yosi Beilin, Foreign Ministry political director general, said that when the Soviets' visas expire in about a month, Israel will allow Moscow to send new diplomats to replace any of the delegates now staying in Israel.

Shamir Seeks Meetings With Shevardnadze, Mubarak

TA1305141788 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
13 May 88 p A1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is trying to arrange a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze when the leaders visit New York at the start of next month. The prime minister's office is checking whether Shevardnadze will be attending the UN General Assembly's special session on disarmament during that period.

Sources close to Shamir said the Soviets see contacts with half the Israeli Government as insufficient, and believe there is no way to obtain a political settlement with Israel without coming to terms with Shamir. According to the sources, Egypt is also leaning toward a change in its one-sided approach, which favors an understanding with the Labor Party.

Senior Likud sources hope the Egyptians respond favorably to efforts by the prime minister's office to arrange a meeting between Shamir and the Egyptian president before the elections.

Shamir Supports Mubarak Remarks on Negotiations

TA1605182088 Jerusalem Television Service
in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 May 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by unidentified correspondent in the Knesset on 16 May—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, President Mubarak announced yesterday that direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs are the best way. Do you regard this announcement as a change in the Egyptian president's position?

[Shamir] I do not know if it is a change, as I have still not read the entire interview. However, it reminds me of an earlier interview with President Mubarak published in a Kuwaiti newspaper. At that time, he said he regretted Egypt's suspension of the autonomy negotiations. He said he thought that was a mistake. This time, too, he gave an interview to a Kuwaiti newspaper, and I believe that this may again be a frank expression by President Mubarak when he praises direct negotiations. I certainly join in that opinion.

Shamir Asks Mubarak To Back 'Miniconference'

TA1705104188 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
17 May 88 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has decided to renew his appeal to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak regarding direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan, with the participation of Egypt, the United States, and Saudi Arabia. This concept was called an "international miniconference" in the past. [passage omitted]

Jordan Ready To 'Cancel' West Bank Commitments

TA1605104188 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
16 May 88 p 2

[Report by Uri Horowitz and Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Amman is ready to cancel its commitments to the West Bank, halt development plans, stop paying the salaries of government employees, and end the financing of government schools and aid to hospitals. It is prepared to do all this as part of its policy that views the PLO as the Palestinians' sole representative, and according to which Jordan will not negotiate in place of the PLO.

The Jordanian sources that relayed this information said they made their position clear to the PLO representatives who visited Jordan last week. According to these sources, Jordan will proceed with the West Bank development plan only if the PLO wishes.

It has been learned that during a debate in the Jordanian royal palace, King Husayn came under pressure to dissociate himself publicly from the West Bank following the wave of unrest that Jordan has been experiencing recently. Those disturbances have not been reported in the Jordanian media as part of an effort to prevent local Palestinians from being swept into the intifadha [uprising] in the territories.

Rabin Seeks 'Modus Vivendi' With Palestinians

TA1305125188 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
13 May 88 p 3

[Report by Shlomo Slutzky and Asher Shiloni]

[Excerpt] Speaking yesterday before the Labor Party political committee, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that "a gradual calming process" is occurring in the territories. He expressed concern over "Husayn's retreat from his positions, as shown by the recent declaration of his intention not to reassume responsibility for negotiations on the fate of the Palestinians."

According to Minister Rabin, the main danger of the uprising is political, not military. "The goal of violent acts in the territories is political, but we should continue to be guided by the concept that the Palestinians will solve nothing by violence." Referring to the Shultz initiative, Rabin said it is now "on the decline."

Rabin suggested that a modus vivendi be sought with the Palestinians during a transition period "until Jordan is in a leading position." This should be done together with those Palestinian residents of the territories who "do not adhere to the Palestinian Charter," oppose terrorism, accept Resolutions 242 and 338, and are ready for peace with Israel.

Rabin made this statement at least three times in a single day. Its novelty lies in the fact that it proposes a dialogue with Palestinians who are identified with the PLO, but who actually support the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel. They must also meet Rabin's criterion of "not adhering to the Palestinian Charter." This triple reiteration in a single day may be an indirect message to the Palestinian leadership in the territories and to such leaders as Sari Nusaybah and Hanna Sinyurah.

Rabin also praised the Palestinians for "their adherence to the land, their investment in construction, and their high motivation to fight for their ideals with less self-pity than the Jews...," adding that "Israelis can learn a thing or two from them." [passage omitted]

Rabin: Settlements Do Not Contribute to Peace

TA1605193588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 MAY 88

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin says that many of the settlements which are located in the midst of the Arab population do not contribute anything toward peace, only to the people who want to use them for creating political fait accomplis. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch reports that Minister Rabin spoke with Labor Party activists in 'Arad. Minister Rabin says he conducted a survey in a unit of religious soldiers serving in the territories. Most of them told him they would prefer to serve in Lebanon. He noted, however, that the soldiers understand the importance of achieving calm in the territories.

Officer, Soldier Tried for Firing in Arab Village

TA1705082388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] An IDF officer was strongly reprimanded and a soldier was sentenced to 35 days of suspended imprisonment for having fired on the village of 'Azmut yesterday contrary to regulations. Following this firing incident a dead youth was brought to the Nabulus hospital. Another three youths were wounded. The Military Police are investigating whether the four youths were hurt by the soldiers' firing. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that the officer and the soldier were tried for having fired in the air without any justification.

Ben-Aharon on Local Arab Leadership, Shultz Plan

TA1505193888 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 May 88

[Interview with Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, by Me'ir Kohen, in Ben-Aharon's office; date not given—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Kohen] If local Arab leaders ready to discuss peace were to emerge as a result of the intifadha [uprising], would the prime minister be prepared to talk to them?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, the prime minister is willing to meet responsible leaders who believe that extremism does not work. The prime minister would gladly listen to them and start a dialogue, or even reach an understanding with them. We know that leaders who say they are fed up with futile violence exist, but they are afraid to step forward, either because they are unsure of the results, or perhaps because they do not know where we stand. Consequently, our position is to hold such talks.

What those leaders need is courage, not for our sake, but for themselves, their children, and future generations. They should have the courage to resist intimidation by PLO terrorists, and reach a solution that fulfills their desires, as well as our need for peace and security.

[Kohen] Sir, about the U.S. secretary of state's upcoming visit: How will this situation affect his plan and the peace process?

[Ben-Aharon] We warmly welcome Secretary of State Shultz. We believe the United States is an ally. They say they are friends of the Arabs, and we have no objection to that. On the contrary, a friend of both sides can bring the two together. Regardless, we must make one thing clear, both to ourselves and to the Arabs around us: A solution cannot come from the outside. It can only be reached between us and them. An external element can bring us together and mediate talks. Anyone who thinks the problem can be handed over to an international conference that would force a solution on us should forget it. That cannot happen.

An international conference will not meet because Israel will not join it. Therefore, if King Husayn, together with responsible Arab leaders from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, want to meet us to try and reach a solution—no matter where or when—the United States can help us take the first steps. However, the solution will not come from the United States.

Communique Quoted 'Awwad 'Out-of-Context'

TA1305121788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 May 88 p 1

[Text] The communique issued to the world press by the prime minister's office to explain the deportation of Palestinian activist Mubarak 'Awwad included a selective and out-of-context statement by 'Awwad apparently taken from a document originating from Qiryat 'Arba lawyer Elyatim Ha'etzni.

Ha'etzni's document, which THE JERUSALEM POST received midweek, recorded quotes from an address by 'Awwad at a gathering of Jewish students in Jerusalem. But the quotes materially misrepresented the general thrust of the address.

In addtion, a substantial part of the Ha'etzni text was not spoken by 'Awwad at all—but by another participant.

'Awwad is in jail awaiting the outcome of his petition to the High Court against his deportation. Ha'etzni has been active in the legal battle against him.

The Ha'etzni paper, which was circulated by "Elisha" yesterday (Citizens for Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza), was in the hands of top government officials earlier this week.

The prime minister's spokesman, Avi Pazner, said last night: "The sentence in our communique was uttered. We made no claim to cite the whole speech." He claimed that he did not get the selective quotation from Ha'etzni.

The prime minister's May 6 communique, issued by Pazner through the Government Press Office, quoted 'Awwad as saying "The PLO want the entire Palestine—and I agree...Palestine for me is the Galilee, 'Akko, Ashdod— everything! This is Palestine for me."

But 'Awwad continued to say, according to a tape-recording: "I have to go and ask for all Palestine, and then you'll come and say 'Wait a minute, let's negotiate on this.' Then we cannot do this, we can do this, we can do this. And Israel can say we want the whole of Palestine too, because this is all Israel. And you have to take all from there and that we can change. That's how a negotiation will go."

The tape was provided to THE POST yesterday by Ha'etzni upon request.

Work Force Devoted to Defense Falls by 14,000

TA1605064388 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 May 88 p 9

[Excerpt] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last week revealed that the defence establishment had reduced its workforce by 14,000 people, through firings, early retirement and attrition. These figures included the IDF, the Defence Ministry and the military industries. [passage omitted]

U.S. Spokesman's Attitude 'Peculiarly Arrogant'

JN1605122988 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Stop the Music, Send the Mediator"]

[Text] United States State Department Spokesman Charles Redman's characterisation of Secretary of State George Shultz' Middle East peace plan as "the only workable alternative" to the violence in the region is more generous than it is truthful. Never mind. What did we expect Mr Redman to say of his boss' plan: "Nice try, George, but no cigar?"

Redman's attitude strikes us as peculiarly arrogant, and vis-a-vis the recent history of Middle East diplomacy, peculiarly American. It is presumptuous of the United States to see itself as the purveyor of the only workable alternative to anything, let alone to regional peace arrangements. But, as we said, never mind. It is part of the burden of being a superpower to have an exaggerated sense of one's importance.

For sure, Mr Shultz does well to keep plugging away at this Middle East diplomacy. Nobody ever said his task would be easy, or quickly accomplished. After all, the main obstacle facing him is one of his own country's doing: He tries to promote Middle East peace among Arabs and Israelis with one hand, while with the other he signs strategic cooperation accords and $3 billion plus annual aid grants for Israel, and issues repeated statements that American policy is based firmly on maintaining the superiority of Israel's military over the combined forces of its Arab adversaries. What are we supposed to do when faced with such a partisan in mediator's clothing? Break out in a chorus of "Hallelujha, George, Blessed are the peacemakers?

It must be hard being a superpower which pledges all its super powers to one side in a regional conflict which it is also trying to help adjudicate to the satisfaction of the two sides in the region. No wonder, therefore, that Mr. Redman says outrageous and simplistic things. Our feeling is that the Arab World should make it clear to the United States, and to Mr. Shultz, that we welcome genuine mediation, and we welcome an American effort to help resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict through negotiations.

But we are fed up with vain glorious and self-congratulatory nonsense from superpowers who would try to cover up their fundamental partiality by showering themselves with mountains of diplomatic whipped cream and strawberries, in order to dwell in a perfectly moral world presided over by American political traditions and ethical exhortations. By setting themselves up as the great and fair folk of the world, the Americans risk having to fall all that much further when the whipped cream melts, and the strawberries wilt. Send us mediators, for sure, but spare us the violin music.

Editorial Reviews King Husayn-Saddam Meeting

JN1505141188 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 May 88 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Two Leaders Meet in Honor of Victory"]

[Text] The Jordanian-Iraqi talks between His Majesty King Husayn and His brother, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, president of the Iraqi Republic, indicate more than one thing. They indicate the special role played by Jordan, under the leadership of Husayn, to close Arab ranks and to triumph in our nation's issues in face of the challenges confronting it, the most important of which are the Israeli and Iranian aggressions.

Jordan, with its laudable endeavors and fruitful efforts, has succeeded in turning the Amman summit of reconciliation and accord into a starting point for Arab action, allowing it to devise the mechanism for future Arab political moves and to crystallize a firm stand on present peace proposals, which followed the Palestinian people's courageous uprising.

Iraq has fought and is still fighting in defense of the Arab nation and its Arab order. Iraq adopted this order in the face of Persia's anti-Arab grudges and schemes in order to divide the region and enflame it with sedition by distorting the true and tolerant image of Islam. Our grandfathers courageously defended Islam. In turn, they bore Islam's banner of love, brotherhood, and good tidings to spread all over the universe and to leave its mark of an immortal civilization and glories. Iraq never deserted the Arab trench. Its people have not yielded and will never yield. This, however, has not stopped it from taking part in the various Arab issues in their different stages, even with the fierce war in which it is engaged. Its victory in Al-Faw was a victory for the courageous uprising in Palestine, a strengthening of Arab determination, and a confirmation of the Arabs' will to meet all challenges.

And Jordan, which carried the banner of the Great Arab Revolt, spread its mission, and interpreted its principles and aims into honest calls to close and strengthen Arab ranks, sees Iraq's victory as a victory for the whole nation. Our Arab nation, which has a will to resist as proven by the uprising in the occupied Arab territories, is able to repel the aggression and its slyness and to foresee the day of victory and freedom.

Jordan has shared all the sweet and bitter days with fraternal Iraq. It grieved at the war imposed by continuous Iranian aggression which destroyed much of the material and moral resources of the two neighboring countries. It also rejoiced at the Iraqi victories and considered them its own because they are the victories of the whole nation.

Since fraternal obligations and pan-Arab duties have been Jordan's concern, practice and guideline, bilateral relations with brotherly Iraq have always been special, strong, and rich, giving priority to national issues over personal issues no matter how important.

The Arab concern felt by Jordan is a common concern that ought to be felt by all members of the nation so that it would be transformed in the face of challenges, to victories which support the Iraqi victory and the victories of the Palestinian people who are determined to continue the resistance in face of the Israeli occupation until they achieve all of their legitimate rights on their national soil, especially the right to self-determination.

Therefore, Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, was and still is supportive of every joint Arab action from the point of view of the obligations it always sees as its duty toward its nation. Jordan has not hesitated in the past and will not hesitate in the future toward any fruitful Arab call, whether for Arab summits, or for sacrificing, giving, and defending the soil of this nation, its honor, and the future of its coming generations.

It is a glorious meeting with a great significance—the meeting between the two leaders, Husayn and Saddam, in honor of the victory which Iraq lifted its banner.

Central Bank Official on Iraq 'Trade Problem'

JN1605071088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 May 88 p 6

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) said Sunday [15 May] it would finance 10 per cent of the over $450 million worth of Jordanian export orders to Iraq, in accordance with a bilateral trade protocol agreement, and that the remaining letters of credit already opened were being cancelled, Deputy CBJ Governor Dr Mahir Shukri told the JORDAN TIMES.

Dr Shukri said the over $300 million worth of letters of credit in excess of the amount covered by the protocol were ineligible because they were intended for Jordanian re-exports to Iraq.

Under the Kingdom's annual trade protocol with Iraq, which officially guarantee trade in goods worth $185 million each way, Iraqi importers open letters of credit up to that value, reimbursable to the bearer by the CBJ. This year's Jordanian exports quota was increased by $35 million over last year's $150 million.

According to Shukri, about $135 million worth of goods have already been shipped and paid for and the remaining $50 million is enough to cover eligible exports of Jordanian manufacturers. The rest of the $450-$500 million of Iraqi orders mostly involved reexports of non-Jordanian products, labelled as if they were of Jordanian origin.

The Iraq trade problem coupled with a delayed aid payment from Saudi Arabia and a late debt repayment from Iraq, caused a brief flurry in the foreign exchange market earlier this month, Shukri said.

On May 2, the CBJ temporarily refused to sell dollars, apparently in order to preempt a threatened flight from the dinar. The value of the dollar shot up by about 20 per cent in two hours.

A $4 million intervention by the CBJ eased the market, showing the brief panic was a huge over-reaction, compounded by reports of a low CBJ foreign exchange reserve ($148 million in March).

Saudi Arabia made its second $59.9 million aid payment to Jordan last week and Shukri said Iraq has also paid its nearly $12 million month debt repayment to the Kingdom, part of its payment of $158 million in 1988.

Shukri said the Central Bank was still screening about 13,000 letters of credit opened by Iraqi importers. The sharp increase in import orders is attributed to Iraq's loosening this year of the state monpoly on foreign trade.

The deputy governor said the CBJ noticed in January brisk drawdown of the financing facility, and sought clarification from the Rafidain Bank in Amman, which in turn reported a sudden rise in orders from Iraq. A government delegation was then dispatched to Baghdad to ask Rafidain Bank to decelerate the drawdown on the extended facility. The Iraqi side promised to take action.

In February, the Central Bank warned Jordanian banks not to finance any of the letters of credit because their total exceeded the value of the trade protocol and therefore they would not be covered by CBJ refinancing facilities, Shukri said. Further action was then taken the level of the Prime Ministry, through a delegation to Iraq representing the Central Bank and the Ministry of Industry and Trade. "By that time," Shukri said, "the volume of import orders had reached between $450 and $500 million."

He pointed out that the Jordanian private sector could not have produced such a large volume of goods for exports. "We know the limits of Jordan's industry," he said, pointing out that last year's exports barely covered the allocated quota.

He said that after screening the credit applications, the Central Bank found the value of Jordanian domestic exports was around $45-$50 million, well within the balance left on the bilateral trade accord. The Ministry of Industry has said that priority in payment will be given to goods certified as having a certain percentage of Jordanian content or more, and will exclude form the trade protocol non-Jordanian goods that had been channelled through the Kingdom.

"What we did, in fact, is abort an attempt to exploit our foreign reservers," Shukri said. "We are now cancelling the credits, he said, referring to LCs for over $40 million of orders from Iraq, which some enterprising Jordanians had hoped to import from third parties for shipment to Iraq through Jordan, using the benefits of the bilateral trade accord.

Iraq's outstanding debts to Jordan, which are an accumulation of credits extended by the Kingdom between 1983 and 1987, have already been re-scheduled last year. Shukri said the Iraqi payments were stable.

The deputy governor revealed that the Central Bank was working on simplifying foreign exchange procedure and introducing a new version of foreign exchange regulations.

Daily Reports on King's Visit to Saudi Arabia

JN1405100588 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 May 88 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "A Good Tradition and Brotherly Talks"]

[Text] The blessed visit by His Majesty King Husayn and his delegation to the holy places to perform the minor pilgrimage and meet with his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, stresses his majesty's good tradition of celebrating Laylat al-Qadr [the night when the Koran was revealed] in the best places by going to Mecca and then to Al-Madinah to visit the holy tomb of Prophet Muhammad.

Jordan, under His Majesty King Husayn, is deeply concerned about achieving unity of the Arab and Islamic ranks and effectively and seriously participating in international efforts to bring true peace in the world and solve all the volatile regional problems which have resulted from the major international conflicts. In this light, Jordan believes that continued talks with the brothers and friends will crystallize ideas and clarify the picture, which should be clear and complete.

His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with his brother King Fahd is part of the Arab and Islamic effort to reinforce bilateral relations in favor of the interests of the two fraternal countries. At the same time, his majesty's meeting with Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in the holy places will expand and deepen Jordan's political action and his majesty's efforts to bring about an honorable and just political solution to the Afghan issue in favor of the Afghan people, end the shedding of the blood of the Afghan people, and revive the economy which was destroyed by the civil war. Other concerned parties should also play a balanced and objective role in this issue.

In this context, friendly Pakistan, which was a party in the Geneva talks on the Afghan issue, understands Jordan's honest political efforts to help in reaching the Geneva agreements, whose major fruits will be the withdrawal of the foreign forces regardless of their source and the source of their support from the Afghan territory and the bringing together of parties in the internal conflict at the negotiating table to participate in the government.

The Jordanian-Saudi meeting at this stage is part of the other Arab meetings and stresses the clear Arab position on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the need to solve the Palestine question and confront the dangers threatening the Muslims and their sactities, countries, and ideology, which some parties alien to Islam are trying to distort. These parties are also trying to carry out terrorist actions or shed Muslim blood in the holy places.

With the approach of the pilgrimage, an Islamic duty carried out by hundreds of thousands from all parts of the world, we stress the need for the Arabs, Muslims, and international community to condemn any riots, violent actions, or attempts to thwart the pilgrimage rites. There is also need to warn Iran, which violated the sanctity of the pilgrimage and holy places last year, and which tried to exploit them politically in order to harm Muslim interests and distort Islam before the Muslims and the peoples of the world.

Fighting Between Amal, Hizballah Continues

Syrian Suburb Entry Discussed

NC1605062888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that he sees no knots or obstacles to the entry of the Syrian brothers into the southern suburb. They are going in to establish a balanced security system that will safeguard all people, so that they can face their major problems from a solid standpoint, he said. He added: There are no problems between us and the Syrian brothers regarding the fateful strategic issues. We hope that this initiative will be completed with full cooperation and success.

A responsible source in the Amal Movement has emphasized that the security plan in the southern suburb will be the same as the one in West Beirut. All offices will be closed and any show of force will be prevented. He said that Iran's President Khamene'i supports the Syrian entry into the suburb, but that there seems to be certain Iranian groups who have reservations about or are opposed to this step. He said there was contact last Saturday between Syrian President al-Asad and Iranian President Khamene'i, and that the decision to enter the suburb was made on the basis of this contact. The source expects the Syrian forces to enter this morning after political and security preparations are completed.

Syrian Entry Delayed

NC1605113788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpt] A Shi'ite source very close to fundamentalists has asserted that the deployment of Syrian troops in the southern suburb has been temporarily postponed. The source told AFP that intensive contacts between Syria and Iran at the highest levels have not yet let to final results. It has therefore been decided to postpone the deployment of Syrian troops. [passage omitted]

Fate of Hostages Discussed

NC1605120988 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] A well-informed source told our radio at midday that the Syrians will deploy in the southern suburb of Beirut within the next 24 hours. The source revealed that intensive consultations are taking place in Beirut and Damascus to ensure that the operation takes place smoothly, without inflicting further destruction on the embattled suburb.

The source told our radio that Hizballah proposed that the committees resume their work, but the idea was flatly rejected, having been discredited by the failure of the seven-point agreement.

The source said that several matters have to be settled before the deployment begins. Among these is the issue of the foreign hostages who are thought to be held in the suburb. The source did not deny that Syria and Tehran are holding talks on this point. The source pointed out that Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iran's deputy foreign minister, is currently in Damascus. He met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday.

According to AFP, the future of Hizballah and how and where it is to operate are among the issues which are being debated.

Damascus Talks Delay Entry

NC1605142188 Paris AFP in English 1356 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 16 (AFP)—Three senior Iranian officials were Monday holding talks with Syrian authorities in Damascus on means to end fighting between pro-Syrian and pro-Iranian Shi'ite groups just south of here, Iranian sources reported.

Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam was to see Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad while another deputy foreign minister, 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, saw Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' they said.

Their visits concided with that of a third Iranian official, Revolutionary Guards Minister Moshen Rafiqdust, who was also in Damascus for talks on ending clashes between pro-Syrian Amal militiamen and Iran-backed fighters from the Hizballah movement.

The contacts underway in the Syrian capital have "at least delayed" the entry into the southern suburb of Syrian troops, who have taken up positions on the outskirts of the suburbs, a Shi'ite source said here.

He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the discussions focused on the future status of Hizballah, which has taken control in all but two districts of the suburbs in 11 days of fighting.

The officials also discussed the fate of the 15 foreign hostages still being held in Lebanon, the sources said.

A senior Syrian official went to Tehran on Saturday to confer with Iranian authorities on the fighting, well-informed sources disclosed here Monday.

8 Killed, Over 30 Wounded

NC1605182988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] It was observed today that the Syrian soldiers were deployed 5 meters from the Hizballah position along the Al-Rasul al-A'zam Mosque combat line.

Meanwhile, the fighting between Amal and Hizballah over the past 24 hours has left 8 people dead and well over 30 wounded.

Syria's Kan'an, Hizballah Talk

NC1605210588 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] A foreign news agency has cited a security source as having said that Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, officially notified Hizballah today of the Syrian decision to deploy Syrian forces in the southern suburb.

The source also added that Brig Gen Kan'an received a Hizballah delegation and affirmed that Hizballah will be treated on an equal footing with the Amal Movement.

During the meeting with Kan'an, the Hizballah delegation broached the subject of political guarantees which Damascus can give Hizballah about the continuation of its establishments and its role in the future. According to the same source, this might lead to the convening of another meeting between the two sides before the Syrian entry into the suburb.

A Shi'ite source very close to the fundamentalists has told a foreign news agency that the Syrian Army's deployment in the suburb has been temporarily postponed, and that the contacts that are taking place at the highest level between Syria and Iran have not yet yeilded any conclusive results.

Hizballah sources have stated that Hizballah's stipulations for resolving the problem of the southern suburb are as follows: that none of its members should be confronted; that Hizballah members retain their freedom of movement; that Hizballah offices in the south be reopened; that the 6th Brigade is not to serve as a buffer because it is one of the Amal Movement's groups; and that a pledge be given not to attempt to intervene militarily to search for the hostages. In return, Hizballah would agree to close its military offices, but would be allowed to retain its political offices; to remove its armed manifestations; and to have limited Syrian forces act as a buffer between its positions and those of Amal.

Iranian Envoy Arrives for Talks

NC1605211788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] In a statement issued tonight, the Iranian Embassy in Beirut said that 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, special envoy of Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, has arrived in Beirut. On his arrival he immediately met with Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council. The meeting took place in the presence of the Iranian ambassadors in Lebanon and Syria.

The statement added that Besharati discussed with Fadlallah and Shams al-Din the issue of the southern suburb and the work of the four-member committee, which consists of representatives of Syria, Iran, Hizballah, and the Amal Movement.

According to the statement, Besharati affirmed that, after settling the existing problems, a new committee will be formed to study the losses that have been sustained in the suburb, in order to help the suburb's inhabitants overcome, as he put it, this difficult phase.

Four-Party Committee Convenes

NC1605211688 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] In affirmation of the implementation of the decision to deploy Syrian forces in the southern suburb, the quadripartite committee held a meeting at the office of Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud at 2200. The discussion dealt with the plan of entry into the southern suburb.

Meanwhile, violent clashes broke out between Amal and Hizballah in Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah at 2200. The sounds of explosions from various weapons are still being heard throughout the capital.

Al-Asad Meets Algerian Foreign Minister 12 May

JN1205191488 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 May 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi at 1315 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Algerian ambassador in Damascus. Dr Ibrahimi conveyed to the president a message from Algerian President.Chadli Bendjedid. The message deals with the extraordinary Arab summit conference to be held in Algeria in support of the popular uprising against israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories. The conversation revolved around the summit conference, the developments of the uprising in the occuped Arab territories, and the situation in the region.

Prior to his departure, Dr Ibrahimi said that during his visit to Damascus, he handed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The message deals with the extraordinary Arab summit conference to be held in Algeria and which will be devoted to the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories. He also pointed out that he held talks with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on fostering bilateral relations and Arab issues.

Dr Ibrahimi was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Algerian ambassador in Damascus.

Iranian Officials in Damascus To Discuss Lebanon

Al-Shar' Meets Besharati

LD1605134388 Tehran IRNA in English 1206 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Damascus, May 16, IRNA—Iranian Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati discussed latest regional developments with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' here today.

The need for an immediate solution to the situation in Lebanon was stressed by the two sides in the meeting where the two officials also reiterated the importance of expansion of Tehran-Damascus strategic relations.

Besharati arrived here this morning.

Al-Asad To Meet Delegation

JN1605135288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpts] Everyone in Beirut today awaits the Syrian forces' entry into the southern suburb after the head of the Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon said yesterday that the Syrian Army received an order to enter Beirut's southern suburb but without setting a date for this entry. Last night, the Syrian command in Lebanon sent large reinforcements to all areas surrounding the southern suburb.

The Syrian units, reinforced with tanks and armored vehicles, took up combat positions in the buildings overlooking the southern suburb. Fresh clashes erupted between Amal and Hizballah in this suburb this morning, particularly in the neighborhoods of Al-Ghubayri and Al-Shiyah. [passage omitted]

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, who is negotiating on the southern suburb's clashes in the name of Tehran, is now in Damascus. President Hafiz al-Asad is expected to receive him today. Mohsen Rafiqdust, Iranian minister of Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, is also present in the Syrian capital. [passage omitted]

Iranian Envoy Speaks at Damascus Friday Prayers

LD1305180788 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] Damascus, May 13, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni's representative to Syria and Lebanon Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Fahri said in today's Friday prayers sermons in Damascus that Muslim governments which do not respect the International Jerusalem Day or do not permit their people to stage demonstrations are against Islam.

In his sermons delivered in Persian and Arabic, the imam's representative condemned the attempt of the reactionary Arab Leaders to make peace with the Zionist regime and noted that any negotiation for solving the issue of Jerusalem is useless and that continuous struggle is the only possible way to restore the rights of the oppressed.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Fahri considered the confrontation between Amal and Hizballah forces a Zionist plot to take avenge on the Hizballah forces for their attacks on the Zionist enemy.

He urged those who claim to be supporting the Palestinians to declare war against the Zionist regime instead of indulging in mere rhetorics.

Al-Shar' Receives Palestinian Officials

JN1405120588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received [former] PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum and PLO Executive Committee members 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar and Talal Naji. Discussions during the meeting centered on current developments in the Palestinian arena.

Damascus Media on Nation's Role in Lebanon

AL-THAWRAH on Humanitarian Aid

JN1305071388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 13 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: Under the headline "The Essence of the Syrian Role in Lebanon," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in a comment: The return of calm and stability to the [southern Beirut] suburb is a pressing need, and so is the work to return to normal life throughout Beirut and Lebanon. This is the essence of the pan-Arab role of Syria, which has worked and continues to work to bring security and reassurance back to the Lebanese citizens. Moreover, Syria has exerted and continues to exert great efforts to spread security and stability throughout Lebanon and also to prevent its destruction and the unlimited shedding of its citizens' blood.

Syria's humanitarian role effectively contributed to the entrenchment of security and stability in West Beirut when Syria halted fighting among sons of the same rank and when life returned to its normal, safe course. AL-THAWRAH adds: The Lebanese people should benefit from the necessary preludes Syria has created to establish a genuine and true national dialogue which will lead to national accord. Such accord emanates from the need to unify both ranks and rifles and aim them at the Zionist occupied who is usurping parts of southern Lebanon.

Israel is the only party which benefits from the continued fighting and explosions in the Lebanese arena. It is also the only party which takes advantage of the fragmentation in order to achieve its objectives and fulfill its ambitions on Lebanese territory. Syria, by its pan-Arab and humanitarian role, is the sure and only guarantee to establish a genuine national accord. Such an accord will end all Lebanese tragedies and secure for Lebanon its own security, stability, territorial integrity, and indepednence as part of its Arab atmospehre away from the Israeli influence which aims to fragment Lebanon, link it to Israeli policy, and turn it into constant wound in the Arab body.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: National accord is an urgent nationalist need, and its attainment depends on the serious endeavors to realize it. Syria will not spare any assistance or commitment to promote and achieve this accord and to save Lebanon from its bitter suffering.

Paper on Al-Asad's 'Promise'

JN1605072088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Leader Al-Asad's Promise," TISHRIN says: In his address to the scholars and men of religion, President Hafiz al-Asad has affirmed the firm pan-Arab stand on the tribulation of the fraternal Lebanese people at a time when some people thought that the hands which were extended to save the fraternal country from its ordeal have grown tired. However, the 13-year-old Lebanese crisis has proven with categorical evidence that the historic leader's Syria will continue to pay the tax of pan-Arab and frternal affiliation and make more economic and material sacrifices, as it did in the past, until the sisterly country returns to its Arab position free from the diseases which, had it not been for the successive Syrian initiatives, would have killed it.

TISHRIN adds: Syria will further insist on the march of pan-Arab giving, the dimensions of which leader Al-Asad has drawn on this or that level, in this or that battle, and where called for by circumstances and the nature of the conflict. Syria will also further insist, as leader Al-Asad affirmed, on achieving its goals whenever the enemy shows intransigence.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: By its firm and solid stand, Syria—whose masses are confident of their leader's clear stands, honesty, and faithfulness—is only expressing the will of the people in the fraternal Lebanese state in particular, and the Arab masses in the Arab homeland in general. Syria has performed and will perform a pan-Arab duty that it pledged to perform and for whose sake it offered sacrifices regardless of the price. It is the promise of leader Al-Asad.

Station Commentary on Security

JN1605150588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: In the iftar banquet he gave to prominent religious figures, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad said Syria is in Lebanon to defend it just as it does itself. Syria, the president stressed, is withstanding sacrifices inasmuch as they are made in the interests of the land and people. The president pointed out that all sacrifices pale in comparison with the sacrifice of one's blood. Out of a sense of responsibility and national and pan-Arab commitment, the president's few words sum up Syria's Lebanon policies. Responsibility toward Lebanon is not mere idle talk, slogans aired on broadcast media, or banners for domestic and foreign consumption. It is a physical action and stand.

Syria has never balked at responding to Lebanon's official and popular call for intervention to halt the civil war. This war was triggered by the Camp David partners in a feverish efforts to divert Syria's attention from its pan-Arab battle. It was also an effort to sneak in the Sinai disengagement agreements and later the Camp David agreements to the Arab arena away from the vigilant Arab masses and their revolutionary action that threatens imperialism and Zionism. Syrian forces went into Lebanon according to a decision by the pan-Arab leader, President Hafiz al-Asad.

Syria took upon itself the responsibility of implementing the decision under Arab, regional, and international circumstances that were not altogether favorable. The Syrian Arab forces carried out their pan-Arab, brotherly, and humanitarian task successfully. The slaughtering stopped, the river of blood dried up, the civil war subsided, relative calm and security returned, and then a proper atmosphere was created for the Lebanese to control their own affairs and engage in national dialogue to reach accord on the components of the country's crisis.

It is not Syria's fault if the national accord has thus far failed to materialize. Syria has encouraged the Lebanese brothers to engage in national dialogue in pursuit of national reconciliation that should safeguard the country's territorial integrity, Arab identity and affiliation, distinct role in its Arab environ, its fraternal ties with sisterly Syria, and its right to devote its energies to the liberation of its national soil from Israeli occupation. Syria still stands by this position, since its national and pan-Arab interests converge with the interests of a unified, secure, and sovereign Lebanon: Maintaining normal, effective relations with its Arab environs and fraternal ties with its twin sister, Syria, and remaining free from Israeli occupation and subordination to foreign powers.

Against such a set of circumstances, we can we grasp the significance of the president's assertion that Syria is in Lebanon to defend it just as it does itself, since Syria's pan-Arab interests are not at loggerheads with the national interests of the Lebanese. A Lebanon under the formula of inter-communal coexistence, national accord, and an Arab role is a strength for all the Arabs, and an antithesis of the religious, ideological, racist, and aggressive Zionist entity. A dismemberment of Lebanon on racial, religious, or ideological grounds would serve the Zionist enemy, its racist ideology, and expansionist designs that covet not just the land extending from the Nile to the Euphrates but the whole region and maybe even further afield.

When Israel invaded Lebanon, Syria confronted it and made sacrifices. Indeed Syria fulfilled its pan-Arab duty, fought the battle of Lebanon, and did not hesitate to make big sacrifices in men and equipment. Syria made economic sacrifices as well. Although the Syrian forces at the time were not in Lebanon on a combat mission but in a peaceful, conciliatory capacity, they taught the Israeli aggressors lesson in the Al-Biqa' battles, notably at Sultan Ya'qub and Mansurat Bhamdun, making the Israeli leadership acknowledge that the Syrian forces acquitted themselves and inflicted bitter losses on the Israeli forces. Syria did not delay in putting all its available resources at the disposal of the Lebanese brothers in their struggle to topple the 17 May agreement and to keep Lebanon from being turned into an Israeli protectorate and security belt surrounding Syria's waist. The agreement failed and Israel was forced out demoralized. Syria has never withheld any kind of support for Lebanese resistance against Israeli occupiers. Supported by Syria, the Lebanese resistance forced the Israeli forces out of the bulk of occupied Lebanese territory.

At one point, the Lebanese fought among themselves in West Beirut and turned it into hell. The city became a free-for-all and the fires of fighting were so fanned by invisible factors as to have become more intense than the fighting against the Israelis who encircled Beirut. When this happened, Syria answered the call for help and dispatched its forces to West Beirut, brought the fighting to an end, established security, restored quiet and normality, and helped create the proper climate for movement toward national dialogue.

The senseless, irresponsible fighting has plunged the southern suburb of Beirut in blood and devastation. The Israeli enemy is still in the South, and imperialist and Zionist plots are afoot in the region. Now, after all this, Syria has decided it is dutybound on pan-Arab, brotherly, and humanitarian grounds to heed the calls of the Lebanese on the popular and official levels to put an end to the abnormal situation that has developed. A decision by Syria normally carries moral and material weight, and is meant to be implemented rather than shelved. Whoever thinks he is in a position to obstruct Syria's bid to restore calm and security and normalcy to the southern suburb is woefully mistaken. All that Syria wants is for the Lebanese to live in peace and tranquility and devote all their energies to liberating their national soil and rebuilding their country.

U.S.-Soviet Meeting of Minds 'Impossibility'

JN1405150188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1131 GMT 14 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It was announced in Washington that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will make another Mideast visit after the Gorbachev-Reagan Moscow summit. According to Washington reports, Shultz will pursue American efforts to advance the peace process along the lines of the proposals Shultz presented to parties in the Mideast dispute. Along with other regional issues, the Mideast problem is on the summit agenda. Obviously it is too soon to predict the outcome of a discussion of the Mideast at the summit. What is known about the respective positions of the United States and the USSR on the Mideast issue and their approaches gives observers enough material to speculate on what the summit conference can or cannot achieve.

In its long history with the Mideast crisis, and especially in the latter phase of the Reagan Administration, the United States has been constrained by a number of constants: No withdrawal from the territory Israel conquered in the 1967 aggression; no recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people; no Palestinian statehood, notwithstanding the fact that the

United States supported the UN partition plan of 1948 [as heard]; no to any PLO involvement in any negotiations on Palestine; and no to an authoritative international conference. The United States also clings to the idea of direct negotiations between aggressor Israel and individual Arab parties unbound by UN principles and resolutions or a commitment to a comprehensive solution. The United States also insists on Israel's continued military superiority over the combined Arab forces, never mind the fact that Israel is occupying the entire Palestinian land as well as Syrian, Egyptian and Lebanese territory and aspires to achieve the Biblical borders sought by Shamir, namely that which extends to the Nile and Euphrates.

These constants have been repeated by the United States time and again, and by George Shultz himself in statements he made in occupied Palestine and in the memorandums of understanding which he presented to certain parties to the regional crisis. Under the circumstances, there is no way the United States can make any meaningful contribution to an equitable peace. Despite the fact that the Soviet Union and the United States have been prompted by the force of circumstance to pursue the option of international detente and to emphasize points of agreement over bones of contention, U.S. Mideast constants make a meeting of minds between the Soviets and Americans on the Mideast an impossibility.

Given the Soviet commitment to the Palestinian national rights and an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab land, and its adherence to a full-fledged international conference and PLO representation of the Palestinians, the prospects for a convergence of American and Soviet views become practically nil. It is no secret of international diplomacy that the Soviet position is closer both to the Arabs and to UN principles and resolutions. Hence the consistent U.S. opposition to any Soviet involvement in the peace process and Arab insistence on a Soviet-attended international conference.

The Arabs, who want to see peace established worldwide, support disarmament and efforts to remove the spectre of nuclear war. They also support a diversion of the resultant surplus funds to aid developing nations. Therefore, the Arabs cannot possibly be averse to a rapprochement between the superpowers. However, the Arabs in the meantime assume that a thaw need not and should not prejudice other people's national interests or militate against their rights to freedom, independence, and self-determination and the employment of all possible and available means to resist and end foreign occupation. The Arab masses want a just, comprehensive peace. They cling to their rights to liberate their occupied land and recover their usurped rights. The Arab masses know that people's destinies are decided by their national will, sacrifices, and preparedness for sacrifice and steadfastness.

AL-BA'TH Cited on Mubarak Remarks, Shultz Tour

JN1705074388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headlines "There Will Be No Arab Submission to the Enemy," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: In his recent press statement, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak reiterated the call for so-called direct negotiations with Israel. In a first reaction to this call, Yitzhaq Shamir welcomed Mubarak's ideas and stressed his rejection of an international conference. The two sides not only recalled the Camp David accords, but voiced adherence and insistence on them.

AL-BA'TH adds: However, there is nothing new in the stand of the U.S.-Israeli satellite, because he who accepted for himself a memorandum of understanding that gives everything to the two strategic allies is only expected to carry out what he is requested to do. This is because he sometimes speaks for Washington and at other times he speaks for Israel. He also carries out the orders of both sides, especially since they entered a new stage of international consultations that are meant to precede the expected tour of Shultz and Murphy. The first days of next month will witness the beginning of this tour. According to statements by several U.S. officials, this tour will be another attempt to peddle the plan to settle the Middle East situation.

AL-BA'TH adds: Based on the previous tours and the Camp David parties' insistence on adhering to a set of ideas that only serve Israel's interests and expansionist ambitions, we do not see any chance for the success of this attempt to peddle this plan. Therefore, we should wonder about the use of these successive tours. Perhaps what is required is Arab submission to the ideas of Washington and the Zionist enemy or to create more confusion within Arab ranks? The Zionist entity, which was established on the principle of terrorism and force, threatens our nation. Moreover, its Torah ambitions are known and clear and no longer need further talk, as leader Al-Asad stressed in his pan-Arab address to men of religion.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: This expansionist danger threatens us all. It also threatens our territory, existence, principles, and dignity. What is required is an Arab stand that would repulse attempts of expansion. The U.S. ideas are part of these attempts. In light of this, whether Mubarak calls for direct negotiations or Shamir welcomes this call, we still adhere to our firm and principled stands because they are the stands of a nation which aspire for a free and honorable life and which will never accept submission or humiliation.

Commentary on Israel's Policy, Political Moves

JN1305152688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 May 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Those who have been following the statements of the Zionist enemy leaders since the popular uprising erupted on 8 December have discovered the great political and military crisis of Israel as a result of this uprising, which foiled some theories and produced some facts. The impact of this uprising is still affecting the scene of struggle and the international scene, emphasizing that the policy of repression and violent terrorism is unable to break the determination of a people who have decided to remove the nightmare of occupation. Through this heroic struggle, false masks fell from the Zionist entity's face. Its true racist and Nazi nature appeared through its ugly crimes, genocide, bone breaking, burying Arab citizens alive, cutting open pregnant women's abdomens. Storming hospitals, torturing the wounded, arresting thousands of people, demolishing houses, and using all brutal means that contradict the 1949 Geneva convention on the treatment of civilians under occupation.

The enemy leaders first raised the slogan of stopping the uprising before starting a search for a solution, after the iron-fist policy failed to suppress the uprising. Then they admitted the existance of a Palestinian prolem and said they were ready to recognize some Palestinian rights. Then they spoke about getting rid of some densely populated ares. Finally, they said that the Middle East problem can be solved through a political, not a military, dialogue.

However, through all these statements, the Zionist enemy leaders ignored two basic points: First, that they are invaders and usurpers of the Palestinian Arab territory; and second, that they occupy Arab territories by aggressive force. They imagine that their persistence in the policy of terrorism, deportation, demolishing houses, and genocide—for which they are famous in the Kafr Qasim, Dayr Yasin, and Qibyah massacres—may enable them to achieve their Zionist Biblical project to establish greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Now they began speaking of political solutions. But this does not mean they have shed their skins and become convinced of the need to bring about peace in the region on the basis of withdrawal from the occupied territories and recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Indeed, they are resorting to maneuver and trickery as their crisis, caused by the popular uprising, has increased. They also imagine that stepping up their oppressive and terrorist measures, which are accompanied under U.S. political cover through Washington's presentation of provisional settlement plans, may remove the new developments and facts which have been consecrated in the scene of the conflict and proved that the occupation, despite its crimes and violent terrorism, has no future.

The rights of the Palestinian Arab people must be fully returned. The occupied Arab territories must be fully regained. Regardless of the enemy's attempts to ignore these two facts, and regardless of the United States practicing an Israeli policy in the Middle East, the lessons of ancient and modern history show that all brutal practices have not been able to protect invaders and occupiers from their black destiny, while people who struggle for the liberation of their lands and the justness of their causes will achieve victory.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Departing Soviet Troops

LD1605171388 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
1130 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Kabul, 16 May (BAKHTAR)—Following is the speech Esteemed President Najibullah delivered at a farewell meeting for the limited Soviet military contingents this morning, 16 May.

Dear fellow soldiers, Soviet soldiers, NCO's, officers, and generals; proud people of Afghanistan; esteemed friends and comrades:

Today is an unforgettable and historic day. Afghan and Soviet hearts beat today with fervor and happiness. The world's attention is focused on Afghanistan. An event of great historical importance, an event our friends and enemies will not remain indifferent about, is taking place. The return of the internationalist soldiers—these heroic sons of the great Soviet people who have successfully fulfilled their internationalist duty in Afghanistan and are returning to their peace-loving and beautiful country—is commencing.

We remember the past, the hard times in which Afghanistan's blue sky was darkened by black clouds; the times when the revolution's existence was in question; the times when Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity were endangered; the times when the protection of the Afghan people's honor and competence was in question.

We remember them. Those were the days when the fate of Afghanistan's people—the brave, free, and rightful owners of their beloved country—was being decided. We needed help, great and selfless assistance in standing firm and not bending to our enemy.

Life is very complicated. There are times when even a brother refuses to help in a moment of sorrow or sadness. We have seen such things. Who could have come to our assistance in those sad times? Only a true, tested friend. The internationalist soldiers; those who hoisted the flag of peace, freedom, friendship, equality, and fraternity in 1917; those who defeated the dark forces of fascism and brought freedom to millions of people—they rushed to help us.

The Soviet soldiers did not come here to wage war or to occupy Afghanistan, as mouthpieces across the ocean propagandize. Today, looking back at the road we have travelled, we can clearly see the fruits of the Soviet Union's internationalist assistance. You, dear friends, have saved children, women, and elderly people from attacks by mercenary killers. As a result of your galantry and heroism, our children can go to school, our peasants can do the harvesting, and laborers can work hard in our factories and firms.

You have taught our servicemen how to remedy problems and how to win in the heat of combat. Through your comprehensive assistance, a popular army has been formed in Afghanistan and trained in modern combat methods. It maintains high combat and political readiness, and is independently capable of defending the country's freedom and independence. You have taught Afghanistan's soldiers not just to defend the country, but to build it and create it. Living with danger, they provide the most necessary assistance to the people, deliver bread to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and medicine to the sick.

Friends, you lived beside our soldiers. You have shown in practice what is meant by friendship and fraternity. You have seen many changes in our country: the national reconciliation policy's being implemented, the Constitution's approval, the Meli Shura [National Assembly] elections, and the April Revolution's 10th anniversary.

As a result of the untiring efforts by Afghanistan, the Soviet Union, India, the United Nations, and all peace-loving people around the world, the Geneva accords were signed. In line with the Geneva accords, the Soviet forces' departure from Afghanistan will be completed within 9 months. Dear brothers, today you are beginning this historic movement.

When I look at you, when I speak to you, I want to express the profound and sincere appreciation of Afghanistan's people and leaders. Today all our people—children, youths, men, and women—bid you farewell. Our children, who represent our country's future, bid you farewell. Our peasants and workers bid you farewell. Those who until recently were fighting against our people bid you farewell, as do the green valley of Jalalabad and the snowy, high peaks of Salang. The cities and villages bid you farewell.

Expressions of thanks echo in every corner, every part of our country, every home and on the highest peaks. Thank you, friends, for all you have done for Afghanistan's people, and for the April Revolution. You have heroically fulfilled your internationalist duty. Afghanistan will be a free, independent, sovereign, neutral, and nonaligned country. Thank you for your galantry, heroism, and epic actions. You as internationalists, will be remembered eternally.

Now I address the Soviet mothers. Your children are returning to their families. We bow respectfully to you for raising such internationalist soldiers. Our people will never forget the names of those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the Afghan people's prosperity.

We will remember their names and epic deeds. Today all Afghanis, from the children to the elderly, from the peaks of Hindu Kush to Pamirs, bow respectfully to the memory of those internationalist soldiers who attained martyrdom. Please observe a moment of silence in their memory.

Having said good-bye to you, dear friends, I again invite my noble and religious compatriots to forget past grievances and unite under the banner of national peace, in accordance with God's instructions and sacred Islam, which urge us all to this cause. History will not forgive those who cannot see the noble cause of peace and fraternity and who do not do everything they can to achieve this sacred goal.

I now address the heroic servicemen in Afghanistan's Armed Forces: Strengthen your combat readiness and your awareness. Reliably defend the national reconciliation policy's gains. Remember that the Afghan people see you as the reliable defenders of our country's revolution, freedom, and independence.

Members of the PDPA and other parties: strengthen party unity. Our power and victory lies in the iron unity and involvement with the people. You must set the example in all aspects of life, at work, in armed defense of the revolution, in education, and in your personal life.

I now address Afghan emigrants in Iran and Pakistan: Return to your families, all the necessary conditions for you to have a normal life exist.

Compatriots here and abroad: The doors of reconciliation and negotiation are open for all. As with the Geneva peace process, which we brought to victory through patience and flexibility throughout difficult times, we will patiently and wisely continue the process of creating a broadly based coalition government in this new stage.

The other side should know, as we have learned from experience, that nothing can be achieved through war and extremism.

They should know that our problems have no military solution. We address the opposition, including those who are out of the country, with hope for peace in our homeland. Grounds for interference in Afghanistan's domestic affairs are gone. Let us come and jointly participate in a united national movement to cut the roots of death, suffering, and fratricide; to rebuild the destroyed roads and villages, and irrigate the unirrigated land. Our homeland cries for this. The conscience cries for this, as does each Afghan family. The people are tired of war. Say yes to this.

Today we again express our wholehearted appreciation to the Soviet poeple, to the Soviet leadership, and to Comrade M.S. Gorbachev himself, for their comprehensive and selfless assistance. The Soviet Union's servicemen are leaving, but our friendship with the Soviet Union will remain. This friendship is eternal, as is Lenin's (?genius). This friendship is eternal, like our people's love for Amanullah Khan. This friendship will be handed down from one heart to another, from one generation to another.

Dear friends, we are seriously and reliably moving toward national reconciliation. This is our policy, and that of every Afghan family. The national reconciliation policy brightly reflects the interests of all classes, strata, and groups in our society.

Honor to the internationalist soldiers! Long live the memory of those internationalists who gave their lives! Dear friends, as we say: Have a safe journey, warm bread, and cold water. In accordance with Afghan tradition, we warmly shake each Soviet soldier's hand for all the things he has done for our fraternal internationalism.

Allow me on behalf of Afghanistan's leadership to present you with the memorial banner. Let this banner represent our fraternal fight.

Farewell Ceremony for Soviet Troops in Kabul

LD1605222188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 May 88

[Excerpts] This morning tens of thousands of Kabul workers sent off, with expressions of brotherly gratitude, flowers, and slogans of friendship and solidarity, a number of troops and officers of the limited Soviet military contingents, who, after fulfilling their internationalist duties, had come to Kabul yesterday from Nangarhar Province on their way home. Esteemed President Najibullah participated in a glorious meeting in the Khayr Khana Mena area of Kabul to bid farewell to these troops. [passage omitted]

At the beginning of the meeting, after the national anthems of the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR, an officer from the limited Soviet military contingents in Afghanistan read a message from the CPSU Central Committee addressed to the internationalist troops and officers who have in a fraternal spirit fulfilled their duties in Afghanistan.

Afterwards, Esteemed President Najibullah delivered a speech on the departure of the limited Soviet military contingents. [passage omitted]

At the end of his speech, a memorial banner was presented by esteemed President Najibullah to a Soviet officer on behalf of the Presidency and the Supreme Command of the Afghan Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Medals and badges from the Republic of Afghanistan were awarded to a number of troops and officers of the returning military units in appreciation of the courage and heroism shown by the limited Soviet military contingents, and were given to them by Esteemed President Najibullah, by Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, and by other Afghan leaders. [passage omitted]

BIA reports that the departing convoy of troops and equipment of the friendly Soviet Union were sent off with flowers and by thousands of compatriots along the road in Morgha Bagh Qal'eh-ye, Mir Bacheh Kowt district; Qal'eh-ye Khan subdistrict; Qarah Bagh district, Kabul Province; and Charikar, central Parwan Province.

Memo Sent to UN on Pakistani Violation of Accord

LD1605170788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's office for coordination with the UN good offices mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan reports that the first official memorandum comprising five articles, dated 16 May 1988, by the Republic of Afghanistan on the nonobservance and violation of some articles of the Geneva accords by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which took place today, was handed to this mission's office in Kabul for the necessary investigation.

Najibullah Responds to Journalists' Questions

LD1705000088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Esteemed listeners of Radio Afghanistan:

As you are aware, at the Foreign Ministry Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received a large group of foreign journalists from all over the world who came to participate in the ceremony marking the start of the Geneva accords. At the beginning of this press conference Esteemed Najibullah delivered a statement on the Geneva accords and the national reconciliation policy, which was broadcast last night by Radio Afghanistan. We now draw your attention to the journalists' questions which were asked in a free and democratic atmosphere:

[Begin recording] [Moderator] Esteemed President, a number of foreign and domestic correspondents who are here have sent to us their questions in writing. We have sorted their questions into various catageories to facilitate the process. I read their questions to you with your permission.

First Channel of Italian Television correspondent: How do you assess the 9-year presence of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] We have said several times that Soviet assistance has played a valuable role in our country's economic and social development. With the Soviet Union's help more than seven cooperation projects in various spheres have been set up, which have provided for more than half of the state budget. In the period since the April Revolution, thousands of apartments have been built in Kabul with the assistance of the Soviet Union. Tens of hospitals, schools, transportation establishments, and other economic and national projects have been built in the country. I must say that Soviet assistance has enabled us to overcome the West's economic sanctions during the last 9 years. The main fact is that as a result Soviet assistance and that of other friendly countries, we have been able to safeguard Afghanistan's integrity and independence.

[Moderator] Thank you. THE WASHINGTON POST correspondent: As the president of a small country, what advice would you give to similar countries concerning their relations with the large powers?

[Najibullah] It is not proper to give advice, specially for me because I am a young president. Since you have asked, I can give only one piece of advice: All countries, big or small, should respect each other's rights and sovereignty and establish relations on modern principles, national interests, and principles of justice and reason.

[Moderator] Thank you. PAP representative: What is the state of relations between Afghanistan and Iran, and Afghanistan and China?

[Najibullah] By supporting the Geneva accords and by making efforts to implement them the Islamic Republic of Iran can pave the way for the normalization of friendly relations between Afghanistan and Iran. We extend that invitation to the Iranian leadership. Unfortunately, the official bodies of Iran not only do not support the Geneva accords but also issue provocative statements. We hope this will not be Iran's final stance.

The PRC welcomed the Geneva peace process, which has been assessed positively in our country. However, the PRC as a powerful Asian country, and a powerful country in the world can play a more active and worthy role in resolving the political situation around Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Thank you. A GDR journalist:

A. Mr President, do you believe that after the withdrawal of the limited Soviet military contingent, an agreement will be signed on cooperation and mutual assistance between the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR?

B. Will you count on Soviet military assistance in the future?

[Najibullah] Relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are based on the 1921 and 1978 treaties. These treaties have passed the test of time. They will certainly remain in force after the withdrawal of the limited Soviet military contingent. The leaders of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan have frequently stated their resolve to develop and strengthen friendly relations between the two countries. Our countries' stances based on traditional links were reaffirmed in our joint communique from the Tashkent meeting between the leaders of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Thank you. (Lira), representative of First Channel of Italian Television: Do you deem it possible to form a national coalition government with the insurgent forces?

[Najibullah] This is one of the goals of the national reconciliation policy. We offered the opposition 28 ministerial portfolios, chairmanships of state committees, and also the positions of chairman and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and vice president. We have often repeated this proposal. With regret I tell you that our proposals have so far been rejected by the extremists of the opposition. Now that the new government system, based on the principles of coalition and pluralism, is taking shape we have left the doors open to a coalition government. Now we are contacting and negotiating with the opposition inside and outside the country.

[Moderator] Representative of the GDR news agency: How do you want to develop your relations in economic and other spheres with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries?

[Najibullah] I said previously that Afghan-Soviet relations are based on steadfast agreements and treaties, I mean the 1921 and 1978 treaties, and the recent joint communique of Tashkent. Some time ago agreements on economic cooperation until the year 2000 were signed. The economic cooperation council has also drafted a program to provide aid for the development of the Afghan economy.

[Moderator] Thank you. REUTER correspondent Hugh Pain from Britain: Do you intend to travel to New York to take part in the UN disarmament session next month?

[Najibullah] Yes, I will participate in the UN session, and I would like to deliver a speech to the participants of the session.

[Moderator] Thank you. Fuji television correspondent from Japan: Will you allow the publication of private and nongovernment newspapers?

[Najibullah] The new Constitution of Afghanistan allows it. At present, the Peasants Justice Party and the clergy party, which is called the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan, have their publications, and social organizations also publish their journals and newspapers in keeping with their programs. Individuals can also have their own journals and newspapers.

[Moderator] Thank you. BTA correspondent: How much time is needed to secure peace and real calm in Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] Convenient opportunities and conditions including international guarantees based on firm legal foundations have emerged. The amount of time needed to establish real and true peace depends on how consistently the sides concerned in the political situation surrounding Afghanistan respect their obligations.

I know that you are thinking of the acts by the extremist section of the opposition. There is no doubt that if military and financial assistance from abroad for the irreconcilible extremists were halted they would not have the strength to continue the war in our country, and in that case they would be faced with our people's resolve for comprehensive peace.

[Moderator] Thank you. GDR newspaper correspondent: How would you like to set up your cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in economic and other spheres?

The second part of the question is: It is known that direct cooperation between the Soviet republics and the Afghan provinces has recently been established. This helps the development of the private sector. Can you give specific data on this?

[Najibullah] The first part of your question has already been answered, and, as regards the second part of your question, I can say that with the direct cooperation of the Soviet Union all sectors are helped, including the private sector. I should say that in the last year 80 private sector projects have resumed production.

[Moderator] Leonov, TRUD correspondent, and the BTA correspondent: How objective is your proposed national reconciliation policy? What has been demonstrated by the first step toward it and, in your opinion, what are the basic difficulties? You declared the national reconciliation policy in the fall of 1986. You even want to form a coalition government. Are you satisifed with your policy taking into account the period that has passed? How many of your rivals have joined you, and how many of them have refused?

[Najibullah] The national reconciliation policy has become a reality and has demonstrated its effects through the solution to the situation surrounding and inside Afghanistan. The Geneva accords were possible because of the national reconciliation policy. The most important result of this policy has been the support it has received from the Afghan people. This policy has also encountered a positive reaction from the opposition inside and outside the country. As I said earlier, more than 50,000 members of the armed forces of the opposition have come over to the state's side. However, the extremist section of the opposition persistently rejects this policy. But I believe they do not want or do not know that there is no alternative to the national reconciliation policy for settling the Afghan problem.

[Moderator] Thank you. Correspondent of the Fuji Television network of Japan: How many Soviet advisers will remain in Afghanistan after the withdrawal?

[Najibullah] This issue is currently under discussion. I can say that some will remain because they are needed to commission the Afghan-Soviet cooperation projects.

[Moderator] Finnish correspondent: It is expected that Afghan emigres will return from Iran, too. However, Iran has not taken part in the Geneva negotiations. Have there been any contacts between the Afghan Government and the Iranian leadership? How will the emigres' return from Iran be guaranteed?

[Najibullah] During the period in which the national reconciliation policy has been implemented, 60,000 of our compatriots have returned from Iran, and this process is still continuing. Unfortunately both in this case and in other cases there have been no contacts with Iran. As far as the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, it wants to establish friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. We have declared our stance several times. [passage indistinct]

[Moderator] PAP journalist and Norwegian journalist: What do you think about [words indistinct] its violation is not permissible in accordance with the Geneva documents, especially in the light of the fact that both the Afghan Government, that is, your government and the past governments, and the opposition do not recognize the Durand Line as a border? During your visit to Delhi you said that Afghanistan does not recognize the Durand Line. If this is so, then where is the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan? Which part of present Pakistan do you claim?

[Najibullah] The esteemed audience knows that the Durand Line was drawn in a calculating manner by the British colonialists in 1893 to extend their borders, [words indistinct] or in other words this line divided the Pashtun tribes. For this reason we regard this line as a product of British colonialist aggression in Asia. This point has remained unsolved as a historical issue. Because the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has chosen the policy of [words indistinct] and good-neighborliness, in light of this peaceful policy and good-neighborliness we can hold talks about issues of disagreement.

[Moderator] Thank you. Correspondent of the Fuji television network of Japan: After the withdrawal of the Soviet units what important reforms will you embark upon?

[Najibullah] In addition to aid, we have in hand the socioeconomic plans for 1365-1369 [1986-1990] in addition to our annual plans which are being implemented. The main objective of these plans is to raise the people's living standards to implement the national reconciliation policy.

[Moderator] Thank you. Norwegian journalist: You mentioned in the Grand Assembly last year that prisoners had been released from Pol-e Charkhi jail. How many were released, and how many are still in jail at present? Do you intend to release more prisoners?

[Najibullah] In the year since the declaration of the national reconciliation policy 13,000 prisoners have been released from jail. At the present time there are more than 2,000 people in (?our prisons) convicted of serious crimes against national security.

[Moderator] Thank you. Representative of the cinematography group of Japan: We, the joint Afghanistan-Japan group, are engaged in making a documentary film about Afghanistan. [Word indistinct] is continuing for making this film on the basis of private cooperation. At present (?6 percent) of this country's budget is being spent on defense. Will this percentage be raised following the withdrawal of the limited Soviet military contingent?

[Najibullah] Obviously the country's defense expenditures are significant. I have often said that the armed forces personnel and the quantity of weapons are sufficient for the defense of the revolution's gains and the repulsion of aggression. If the Geneva agreement on noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is implemented, we will not have to spend huge sums of money in this area.

[Moderator] Thank you. GDR correspondent: In your view how will the treaty of assistance and mutual cooperation between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan be applied? Are you counting on Soviet military assistance in the future?

[Najibullah] The first part of your question has been already answered. As far as Soviet military military assistance is concerned I must say that there are treaties and agreements between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan to the effect that within their framework we count on every assistance from the Soviet Union including military assistance in case of need.

[Moderator] Thank you. REUTER correspondent from Britain: Do you intend to visit any country in the near future? There has been mention of Syria and Algeria.

[Najibullah] Many countries have invited me. I will visit the friendly countries of Cuba and the CSSR in the near future. Of course, these visits will take only a few days. There are still many tasks.

[Moderator] Thank you. BTA: Can you visualize Afghanistan in 2 years?

[Najibullah] Despite the current temporary difficulties in Afghanistan we are hoping that peace will soon be restored. We visualize the next 2 years in Afghanistan as years for the realization of the national reconciliation policy, the repatriation of Afghan refugees, the creation of a coalition government, the revival of Afghanistan with the participation of all other political forces, and the broadening of international relations.

[Moderator] Thank you. Reporter of Italian television: The press has published many rumors to the effect that after the withdrawal of the Soviet units, your government will be moved to the north and you will start on the division of the country. Is is true that your government, under emergency conditions, would embark on such an action?

[Najibullah] The rumors were probably caused by our decision to open an agency of the Council of Ministers in the north. I state explicitly that this measure of ours is for the practical solution of socioeconomic development in the northern part of the country, where approximately half of the national production of Afghanistan comes from. There is and will be no word about the division of the country. These rumors are probably being spread by those who (?support) the issue of a confederation of Afghanistan with Pakistan.

[Moderator] Thank you. Fuji television network of Japan: Has the president of Pakistan, Ziaul Haq, given you assurances about the elimination of guerrilla bases?

[Najibullah] The Government of Pakistan, headed by Mr Ziaul Haq, has undertaken, within the framework of the Geneva accords, to remove all bases of the opposition forces from Pakistan. Of course within the framework of these accords, he has taken other undertakings too.

[Moderator] Thank you. Another question from the same correspondent: If the guerrilla groups move their bases from Pakistan to Iran, how would relations develop with Iran?

[Najibullah] We favor the establishment of friendly and good-neighborly relations both with Iran and other countries. Obviously, in the event that opposition forces are stationed in Iranian territory, realizing the desire to establishment friendly and good-neighborly relations, will be impaired.

[Moderator] Thank you. Correspondent of Fuji television network in Japan: Have you established contact with the guerrilla commanders who are fighting against the government?

[Najibullah] At the present time talks are under way with 769 armed opposition groups in order to stop the fighting inside the country and to implement the policy of national reconciliation. These groups total over 60,000 men.

[Moderator] Thank you. Polish Radio-Television correspondent: Can the PDPA retain the leadership role in the growth of a progressive, sovereign, neutral, and nonaligned Afghanistan when the Islamic parties who are now active in the territory of Pakistan join the future coalition government in the framework of the policy of national reconciliation?

[Najibullah] The PDPA, under the present circumstances, visualizes its fundamental role in achieving lofty national interests and national unity. Every PDPA effort and endeavor is devoted to uniting all the political forces, and for this purpose it has given up a monopoly on power and has put the high national interests above its limited party interests. Under political pluralism the PDPA [word indistinct] discharges its leading role and as an initiator organization, with further energy, will organize measures to implement the policy of national reconciliation. These measures have been warmly welcomed by the people of Afghanistan.

I want to let you know that the PDPA has been growing, especially since the policy of national reconciliation was declared and action has been taken to increase the size of party ranks. In the past 6 months, 30,000 persons have joined the party ranks. The PDPA has now organized 205,000 persons in its ranks, among them over 150,000 persons who are engaged in serving the country and homeland in the ranks of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Thank you. Correspondent of Polish television: Do the Armed Forces of Afghanistan have the ability to resist the pressure [word indistinct] by the counterrevolutionaries until imperialism stops giving them assistance? If, during the realization of the policy of national reconciliation, the counterrevolutionary parties who are now active in the territory of Pakistan join the coalition government, will the PDPA have the ability to retain the leading role in the construction of an independent, neutral, and nonaligned Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] Yes the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have this ability. The clear test of this is the successful operations carried out in Paktia, Qandahar, and Herat provinces. However, at the same time, we are persistently seeking ways for compromise with [word indistinct] including the rightist forces. At this very moment there are contacts with some representatives of the seven-party alliance. These contacts and talks are growing. As far as the leading role of the PDPA is concerned, some amendments have been introduced to the party's program of action in accordance with the spirit of coalition and a multiparty system.

[Moderator] Thank you. Correspondent of [name indistinct]: You have many times proposed meetings and a dialogue with the leaders of the opposition groups even on neutral ground. Now that the Soviet units are withdrawing, in your view will the chance of having such a dialogue with the opposition be reduced?

[Najibullah] The Republic of Afghanistan, in conformity with the policy of national reconciliation, has many times announced its readiness to hold talks with all opposition groups. Contacts with most commanders of the armed opposition groups who are active inside the country, and the representatives of the opposition forces who are outside the country, have become serious, especially since the Geneva accords were signed, and every day these contacts become broader and more profound. We are hoping to achieve results.

[Moderator] Thank you. Fuji television network of Japan. With which Western country are you most interested in beginning talks to normalize diplomatic relations?

[Najibullah] At this very moment we have diplomatic relations with most countries, especially Western countries. Of course after the Geneva accords are implemented and foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan ends, necessary conditions will be created for the broadening and expansion of Afghanistan's relations with Western countries. We believe in this and in this respect we will welcome every worthy step by these countries.

[Moderator] Thank you. BTA correspondent: How do you assess your future relations with Pakistan?

[Najibullah] Afghanistan has many common points of history, culture, and religion with Pakistan. Both countries are members of the Nonaligned Movement. Both countries at the same time are neighbors and these are fundamental points. We desire friendly and good-neighborly relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and we are ready to consider all of our reciprocal relations with Pakistan. In the first place, we can secure friendly relations in the economic and commercial spheres, and we think that implementing the Geneva accords will provide better opportunities for the normalization of relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

[Moderator] Fuji television of Japan: What message do you have for the people of Japan?

[Najibullah] I wish peace, prosperity, and further success to the people of Japan. I want to ask the talented and work-loving people of Japan to support the struggle of the Afghan people in their efforts to realize the national reconciliation policy and successfully fulfill the Geneva accords.

[Moderator] Polish journalist: If the representatives of the UN good offices delegation are attacked by the opposition, will this be considered a violation of the Geneva accords?

[Najibullah] The UN good offices delegation has been formed to observe the implementation of the Geneva accords. Any sort of attack on the good offices delegation will undoubtedly be considered a violation of the accords and also an act against the United Nations and an international crime. Unfortunately, the experiences of past years have shown that the so-called defenders of freedom have stained their political measures with these ugly deeds. As far as we are concerned, we will make every effort to create a safe and secure climate for the UN good offices delegation in Afghanistan to enable it to succeed in performing its duties.

[Moderator] Thank you. Correspondent of Polish radio and television: Are the Armed Forces of Afghanistan capable of stopping the possibly extensive pressure by the counterrevolutionary groups in the territory where the Soviet forces are withdrawing from, before the imperialists' assistance reaches the extremists there. [passage indistinct]

[Najibullah] The Army, Sarandoy, and our state security forces, as well as the armed detachments of our party personnel, who are equipped with modern technology and weapons, who have gained combat experience during these years in operations with the bands, and who now carry out combat operations independently, are able to defend the national sovereignty and have been transformed into a reliable shield of defense for the national reconciliation policy. They show their best characteristics—combativeness, patriotism, gallantry, and self-sacrifice.

[Moderator] Thank you, Esteemed President. Journalists from Norway and Japan have asked similar questions in connection with the emigres' return and the readiness of the Republic of Afghanistan to receive them.

[Najibullah] I have often spoken about the emigre issues. Yes, we are ready to welcome our compatriots in our homeland and to create the necessary conditions for their active and fruitful participation, in full accordance with the Constitution, laws and resolutions of the Republic of Afghanistan to ensure their rights and provide concessions to the emigres. I have just said that a department for returnees affairs has been formed, within the framework of the Council of Ministers, to receive our compatriots not only in the capital but also in the provinces. I held a session with ministers some time ago on this issue, and we took the necessary steps to be ready to receive and settle the returnees.

We are ready to receive more than 1 million emigres in our country in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989]. But this process concerns not only us. We also hope that the Government of Pakistan and other governments will not create obstacles to the return of our compatriots in accordance with the Geneva accords.

I have said before that 130,000 compatriots returned to the country last year, which was the year that the national reconciliation policy was declared. Although we are experiencing the hard and difficult conditions of war, we have nevertheless allocated a considerable proportion of our budget, an enormous amount, to provide assistance to the returnees. Based on a preliminary estimate, 1 million emigres may need approximately 20-30 billion afghanis for expenses.

Of course, the state bodies are implementing measures in this regard. We count on the Soviet Union's assistance and assistance from friendly countries has also been promised. Undoubtedly this assistance will considerably increase. We believe that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will request assistance from the United Nations and other international organizations.

[Moderator] Thank you. Journalist of the TIMES OF INDIA: Mr President, you returned some time ago from a visit to India. This was your first visit abroad since the Geneva accords were signed? How do you assess the importance of this visit? What role to you attach to India in the honest implementation of the Geneva accords? What type of regional cooperation is possible?

[Najibullah] The visit of the state and party leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan to India is of considerable importance for preserving peace and security in the region. Our friend, as a founder of the Nonaligned Movement and one of the region's major countries, can play a role in implementing the Geneva accords and developing regional cooperation.

[Moderator] Questions submitted by two Finnish and one Soviet journalists: If the opposition set up a government in one of the provinces, what would your attitude be toward it?

[Najibullah] The Republic's Constitution has been approved in keeping with the will of the Afghan people. In accordance with this Constitution the president was elected, elections for the country's parliament took place a mongh ago, and a coalition government will be formed. We call on all patriotic forces to take part in the formation of this government in accordance with the Constitution. Other governments imposed on the Afghan people without elections will lack a legal and lawful foundation, and our reaction to an artificial government will be based on these factors.

[Moderator] Thank you. A question by an FRG news agency correspondent and the MOSCOW NEWS editor: How do you want to develop your relations with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in the future in economic and other spheres? In your opinion, how will the future of economic and political relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union be after the total withdrawal of Soviet forces?

[Najibullah] I have already answered both your questions.

[Moderator] Hugh Pain of REUTER from Britain: When will the National Assembly be convened? Which important issues will be on its agenda? Will changes in the cabinet be included on the agenda?

[Najibullah] The National Assembly will be convened at the end of May. The following important issues will be on its agenda: the election of the leaderships of the assemblies, the ratification of permanent commissions, the new cabinet will be introduced to the parliament for a vote of confidence; and the ratification of all organizational issues guaranteed in the Constitution.

[Moderator] We have just received a question by Dr (Vedik), a PTI correspondent of India: How can the Government of India play a role in the Afghan crisis? Did the Indian Government offer a specific guarantee in this respect during your visit to New Delhi?

[Najibullah] Although I replied to this question in New Delhi, India can play a great role in implementing the Geneva accords, in solving the situation surrounding and inside Afghanistan, and in implementing various aspects of national reconciliation. In our friendly talks with the state leaders to date we have felt their support and cooperation in this respect.

[Moderator] Thank you. Esteemed President, that is the end of the questions by respected journalists. Thank you for your responses.

[Najibullah] In conclusion I would like to say a few words. I ask you to speak truthfully and factually about our people, our history, and our feelings about implementing national reconciliation, how we are acting to secure that the Geneva accords are implemented, and how we are sending off and thanking the Soviet troops. Our people view the future with optimism.

The Soviet forces are leaving, but our friendship with the Soviet Union remains untouched. Afghanistan is determined to take steps toward new political thinking and wants to be friends with all countries, all nations, and all peoples. Together with Comrade Keshtmand, I sent a telegram today to M.S. Gorbachev expressing our gratitude for the Soviet Union's support for our independent, free, and nonaligned country.

Once again I thank you for the attention you have paid to our country's issues. We wish you prosperity, happiness, and peace. Thank you. [applause] [end recording]

Army Chief of Staff Discusses War Preparations

LD1605215588 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari
1130 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Kabul, 16 May (BAKHTAR)—Lieutenant General Shahnawa Tani, chief of army staff of the Republic of Afghanistan Armed Forces, answered a question by a BAKHTAR military reporter concerning war preparations and the capability of units and contingents of the

Republic of Afghanistan's Army to defend out independence and territorial integrity, and to secure peace and calm in the country. He said:

Our heroic Army, as the greatest guardian of territorial integrity and national independence, and the defender of the people's interests, is the main and principle component of Afghanistan's Armed Forces under the complicated conditions of the present situation in the country and world. The role and position of our Armed Forces are outstanding in solving the tasks of national reconciliation, in ending the war and bloodshed, and in securing peaceful conditions in the country.

The Geneva accords, obtained as a result of the initiative and flexibility of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, place new tasks before us in such a way that the Army has to solve them in coordination with other organs of the Armed Forces. These tasks spell an end to fratricide, and the defense of independence, territorial integrity, peace, and the achievements of the April Revolution. This is why the Afghan leadership, the PDPA, and Esteemed Najibullah, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan, pay profound attention to strengthening the Army's possibiltiies and war capabilities and preparations.

The Army's large units and contingents, including land, air, and air defense forces, are enforced with capable and experienced cadres, who are the selfless defenders of this country. Hundreds of talented and experienced officers have been trained and now they assume the positions of commander and leaders of large units and contingents.

Over the years, true sons of our people have graduated or are due to graduate from the country's higher education institutions such as the Military University, Political University, Technical Academy and Air University. They, in the best way, discharge their national duties and patriotic debt to the country, people, and revolution as commanders of units and contingents. By the same token, lower level specialists graduate from courses and training centers and go to contingents in order to weld, in the present sensitive conditions, their fate with the fate of the country.

Voluntary recruitment of youths in all contingents, particularly airborn assault units, is becoming more popular, and this section of the Army, which carries out difficult war tasks, has strengthened. Much attention is paid to imbuing personnel with patriotic spirit and a spirit of independently defending the independence and territorial integrity of the country.

The Army's political and party organs have rendered specific work to create among them the spirit of victory over the enemies of peace and reconciliation. Military and political education of personnel and operative education of commanders and (?staff) officers has improved in quality. Personnel training takes place in headquarters and during operations. The process is connected to the objective conditions of land and the possible situation of units' operations. Last year, the results of the Army's personnel operations for maintaining peace showed that staff and large contingents were able to use their strike and maneuver power correctly in eliminating rebels.

Coordination among forces is the basic task to fulfill. Therefore units and contigents of the Armed Forces are now capable of crushing the enemy of our compatriots' peaceful life under all conditions. Today, they enjoy the rich experience of advancing war operations. Modern artillery, airplanes, tanks, and modern war machines, BMP-1's, which many countries' armies do not have, operate in the ranks of our Army.

We can claim that the level of war preparation and capability of Afghanistan's Army have gone up many times more than in previous years and can victoriously and independently defend the achievements of the national reconciliation policy, territorial integrity, national independence, and the interests of the people of Afghanistan. One of the principles of maintaining persistent peace is that the Army of the Republic of Afghanistan should be able to defend peace with the direct cooperation of the people. In view of this necessity, the Defense Ministry has set out specific plans for increasing war preparations and capability, and consolidating connections and relations between the army and the people.

The noble and Muslim people of Afghanistan are tired of this war and fratrice and are thirsty for peace. To attain it, they are working and fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with their heroic armed forces. In the present situation, the economy is damaged and villages destroyed. Rebuilding villages and ensuring convenient living conditions for refugees constitute the main problems of our state and people. Afghanistan's Army is ready to help and cooperate in solving these problems as well as carrying out its basic tasks.

Hikmatyar on Soviet Withdrawal, Rebel Alliance

AU1605155888 Vienna PROFIL in German No 20, 16 May 88 pp 58-59

[Interview with Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, "chief of the radical-fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami mujahidin group and current spokesman of the Afghan resistance in Peshawar," by Ahmad Tahiri: "Next Year in Kabul"; date and place not given]

[Text] PROFIL: As the chief of one of the most important Islamic resistance groups, you have fought for more than 8 years to get rid of the USSR. But now you are against the Geneva agreement which facilitates the Soviet withdrawal. Are you against peace?

Hikmatyar: From our point of view the Geneva agreement is imperfect, cannot be implemented, and is thus unacceptable because it neither stops the war nor makes it possible for the millions of refugees to return to their homes. We have always protested against the Geneva talks, and we will keep this protest up. In Geneva it was not the actual parties to the conflict—we and the Soviets—who negotiated, but only those who are on the periphery of the Afghan problem. The religious Afghan people were not represented in Geneva. And none of the participants there was our trustee, advocate, or spokesman. Thus, we do not feel bound by the negotiations and their results.

PROFIL: You say the agreement is imperfect. What do you mean?

Hikmatyar: All resolutions of the United Nations, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement have always demanded the unconditional, immediate withdrawal of the Soviets and the Afghan people's right to self-determination. But we see that the Soviet withdrawal is to take 9 months and is to occur in stages. In addition, the puppet regime in Kabul that was forced on us by the Soviet tanks is to stay there.

PROFIL: How should the Soviet withdrawal be carried out, in your opinion?

Hikmatyar: If the step-by-step withdrawal is for logistical reasons, as they say, then an objective military commission should have decided how long the USSR needs to withdraw its troops. But the Soviets pursue political goals. They want to stabilize the Kabul regime as much as possible during their withdrawal.

PROFIL: But Pakistan, the helper and patron of the Afghan resistance, signed the agreement that you reject. What are the Pakistanis up to?

Hikmatyar: You will have to ask the Pakistanis themselves.

PROFIL: In Pakistan there are 3 million Afghan refugees, and the mujahidin operate from Pakistan. Is there now a quarrel between the Afghan resistance and Pakistan?

Hikmatyar: We are sure that there will never be a quarrel between us and our Pakistani brothers. The Pakistani Government has always stated that it will never under any circumstances leave the mujahidin alone on the battlefield.

PROFIL: People abroad ask why the provisional resistance government that was formed 1 month ago is headed by Ahmad Shah, a man who is virtually unknown at home and abroad.

Hikmatyar: We have formed a provisional government in order to prevent future struggles for power. We want to give the people the assurance that the change in power will take place peacefully and through general elections. The provisional government will soon be established in one of Afghanistan's liberated areas. After the Soviet withdrawal, it will call for general elections, which will result in an elected government. All parties have agreed to this.

PROFIL: Will women be permitted to take part in the elections?

Hikmatyar: Let us first achieve free elections, then we will decide who may participate in them. With regard to Ahmad Shah, I do not agree with you. He has participated in the jihad, the holy war, for a long time, and the fact that all seven parties nominated him sufficiently proves his reputation.

PROFIL: But three moderate parties had their own candidates.

Hikmatyar: Four organizations nominated Ahmad Shah. Three others accepted him in the end.

PROFIL: Why was the chief of the provisional government not elected by the Loya Jirgah, the traditional Afghan national assembly?

Hikmatyar: The seven-party alliance decided differently. And the formation of the provisional government shows that the Loya Jirgah is no longer topical.

PROFIL: Would you fear that the Loya Jirgah might vote for Zahir Shah?

Hikmatyar: Zahir Shah does not belong to the Islamic resistance. He has lived in Rome for all these years without caring for the misery of the Afghan people. Under his corrupt government he opened wide the doors to the communists. The Afghan people will never accept him as their leader.

PROFIL: But there are also other opinions.

Hikmatyar: This is Soviet propaganda trying to divide us.

PROFIL: What do you plan to do after the Soviet withdrawal begins?

Hikmatyar: As long as the Soviets are still in Afghanistan, the struggle will continue. After the withdrawal, however, the war will be over because Najibullah's regime is not strong enough to oppose the mujahidin, not even for a few days. It is a collapsing wall. Currently, it is still held up by Soviet support. If this support disappears, the wall will collapse. (Footnote 1) (At a recent news conference in Kabul, Dr Najibullah said that the mujahidin are dividing "the hide of a bear that has not yet been shot." The government will hold Kabul.)

PROFIL: Will the Afghan Army defect to the mujahidin like the Iranian Army at the time of the Islamic revolution?

Hikmatyar: There is no Afghan Army. The Soviets fought against us. And as long as there is still one single Soviet on Afghan soil, the war will go on.

PROFIL: If the mujahidin conquer Kabul, what kind of government will Afghanistan then have?

Hikmatyar: We want a free, independent, nonaligned Afghanistan with an elected Islamic government that serves the people. And we want to have good relations with all countries in the world, in particular with our neighbors—provided that they do not interfere in our affairs.

PROFIL: With the Soviet Union, too?

Hikmatyar: Certainly, if it leaves us alone.

PROFIL: What should the Islamic government be like? Should it look like the government of the ayatollahs in Iran?

Hikmatyar: There is only one kind of Islamic state, because there is only one kind of Islam. The ways are different, but the goal is the same. There is either an Islamic state or a non-Islamic state. There is nothing in between. We do not have any models for our future. The only model is Islam itself.

PROFIL: Would the Islamic government engage in a blood feud against the communists?

Hikmatyar: Those who forswear the past, repent, and return to the people and to Islam will be amnestied.

PROFIL: When do you plan to give interviews in Kabul?

Hikmatyar: Perhaps next spring—God willing!

India

Disturbances Continue at Sikh Golden Temple

'Terrorists' Urged To Surrender

BK1605162088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] In Amritsar, the district administrative officials have asked the terrorists still inside the Golden Temple complex to surrender. An official spokesman said some of the terrorists, who surrendered yesterday, also appealed to their companions to come out. Intermittent firing by the terrorists from the temple complex continued during the day today.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, reviewed the latest law and order situation in Punjab at a high-level meeting in Chandigarh today. It was attended by the state governor, Mr S.S. Ray, his adviser, Mr Ribeiro, and police and civil officials. The union minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, was also present.

In Chandigarh, the former Punjab chief minister and president of the Akali Dal-Longowal, Mr S.S. Barnala, and a number of his party activists, including several former ministers, were arrested for defying prohibitory orders.

The state's director general of police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, told newsmen today that out of the 146 persons who surrendered yesterday, 17 have been released. Mr Gill said that a body was recovered from the troubled area by the police today. It is believed to be one of the two terrorists who escaped from the Golden Temple last week. He said the situation in the walled city is normal and essential commodities are being supplied to the people in the curfew-bound areas.

Terrorists shot at and seriously injured the former finance minister and general secretary of the state Congress-I, Dr Kewal Krishan, in Mukerian town of Hoshiarpur District this evening. Two persons, including an infant, were killed, and nine persons, including Dr Kewal Krishan's bodyguard, were seriously injured when three terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in the doctor's clinic.

Elsewhere in the state, terrorists gunned down 19 persons since last night. Of the 13 persons killed in Jullundur, 7 died when terrorists opened indiscriminate fire on a group of brick kiln workers.

In Patiala District, 5 persons were shot dead and 22 injured when some terrorists fired indiscriminately in Chowktaliwallah in Rajpura town. One caretaker of a religious place was killed in Kapurthala District.

'Heavy Shooting' Erupts

BK1705033288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] In the continuing terrorist violence in Punjab, 22 persons were killed and an equal number injured in separate incidents in Patiala and Jullundur Districts last night. The worst incident took place in Patiala District, where 16 persons were gunned down when terrorists opened indiscriminate fire at a marketplace in Samana town; 13 others were injured. In another incident, one person was shot dead and six seriously injured in Patiala city. Terrorists also gunned down five persons and injured three in the village of Samrai in Jullundur District. This brings the total number killed by the terrorists since Sunday night to 43.

Yesterday, the terrorists shot at and seriously injured the former finance minister and general secretary of the state Congress-I, Dr Kewal Krishan, in Mukerian town of Hoshiarpur District. Two persons were killed, and nine others, including Dr Krishan's bodyguard, were injured when the terrorists attacked the doctor's clinic.

And around the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar, heavy shooting has broken out between the terrorists and the security forces. This followed an offer of cease-fire by the district administration for half an hour from 0700 this morning to give the terrorists another chance to surrender. The terrorists, instead of coming out, started firing on the security forces. Our correspondent reports from Amritsar that a couple of terrorists were seen taking water from the holy tank into the Harmandir Saheb. The exchange of fire was continuing when reports last came in. Earlier, several surrender calls were made on loudspeakers, offering the terrorists the chance to give themselves up. Some of the terrorists and women who had come out of the complex on Sunday also appealed to those inside to give up.

The director general of the Punjab Police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, said no deadline has been fixed for the surrender by the terrorists. He also said that two minarets where the terrorists are said to be hiding were effectively silenced by the security forces. He said the terrorists are holding out in the basement of the minarets, where steps are being taken to deal with them.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has said the last of the terrorists will be flushed out of the Golden Temple complex to restore its sanctity. He said there will be no compromise with divisive forces. Mr Buta Singh yesterday reviewed the latest situation at a high-level meeting in Chandigarh. The meeting was attended by the minister of state for home, Mr Chidambaram; the state governor, Mr Ray; his security adviser, Mr Ribeiro; and senior police and civil officials. Before leaving for Delhi, Mr Buta Singh told PTI that there appear to be about 40 to 60 hard-core terrorists still inside the Golden Temple complex. He said any talks on the Punjab problem will have to be within the framework of the Constitution.

Strongholds 'Neutralized'

BK1705094588 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] In Amritsar, action by the security forces is going on to take over the basement of old langar [dining] building around the Golden Temple complex. This is considered to be the stronghold of militants hiding there. The action followed the failure of militants to surrender during the cease-fire announced by the district administration for half an hour at 0700 this morning. The security forces have neutralized the two towers and ground floor of the old langar building so far, but the basement is believed to be heavily fortified.

Our correspondent reports that several appeals were made on loudspeakers offering the terrorists a chance to surrender. Some of the terrorists and women who had come out of the complex also urged those inside to give up.

8 Killed in Attacks by Punjab 'Terrorists'

BK1705094688 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Terrorist violence in Punjab has claimed eight more lives. In Ludhiana District, two employees of a religious place were shot dead in Samrala town early this morning. In Amritsar District, three members of a family, including two women, were killed by terrorists late last night.

Four members of a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] patrol party were injured when their jeep was ambushed by terrorists near Amarkot village in Khem Karan sector in the district late last night. The terrorists, however, fled when the injured jawans [soldiers] returned the fire.

Three persons, who sustained injuries in shooting incidents in Patiala and Jullundur Districts last night, have succumbed to their injuries. Curfew has been clamped in Samana town of Patiala District, where 17 persons were killed by the terrorists last night. The district authorities have banned pillion riding throughout the district.

3 Killed in Gurkha-Police Clashes in Darjeeling

BK1505160288 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] In West Bengal, three persons, including a police constable posted at Singamari, were killed in clashes between GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists and security forces in Darjeeling today. Seven others, including four CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers], were injured.

'Frank' Border Talks Held With Pakistan

BK1605161788 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] India and Pakistan have agreed on several concrete measures to be taken immediately to contain terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling, illegal crossings, and other offenses along the border. These include joint patrolling in selected sensitive areas of the Punjab sector of the India-Pakistan border.

A joint press release issued in New Delhi and Islamabad on the 3-day talks held between the home secretary of India and the interior secretary of Pakistan says it was decided that the India-Pakistan committee on border ground rules should meet within the next 3 months to finalize the rules between them, taking into account new realities. There will also be regular meetings between the two border security forces at various levels.

Briefing newsmen about the outcome of the talks in New Delhi this evening, the home secretary, Mr Somiah, said India placed before the Pakistani side substantial evidence about the different kinds of help given by that country to terrorists in Punjab, as well as Pakistan's support to extremist activities in the state. Mr Somiah said the Pakistan side was also given a list of terrorist training camps in Pakistan and details with photographs of sophisticated arms and ammunition used in Punjab by the terrorists. Mr Somiah said that the Pakistan delegation denied any complicity. He said we put across to the Pakistan delegation that the stage of assurances has already passed; it is important now to see that assurances are converteed into positive action.

Mr Somiah said the Pakistan delegation assured positive action. The Pakistan side was also told about the delay in the February 1986 hijacking case and asked to expedite it. India had also suggested that there should be a system of hot pursuit to make the patrolling more effective, but it was not accepted by Pakistan side.

Replying to a question, the home secretary said that the Pakistan side accepted the fact that arms did flow into Punjab from across the border, but denied that Pakistan Government or any of its agencies is involved in it.

The talks were held in a frank and constructive atmosphere and, according to the joint press release, both sides reiterated the resolve of their government to establish good-neighborly and cooperative relations in accordance with the Simla Agreement. The special arrangements for joint patrolling are to be tried initially for a period of 3 months and the procedure will be reviewed thereafter.

Mozambican President Meets Gandhi, Venkataraman

BK1405170488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] The visiting Mozambique president, Mr Joaquim Chissano, had discussions with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. Developments in South Africa, including the people's struggle against the racist Pretoria regime, figured during the discussions. They also discussed the bilateral relations between India and Mozambique, like increasing Indian technical cooperation in agriculture, industry, telecommunications, and railways. The Mozambique president was assisted by his foreign minister, Dr Pascoal Mocumbi.

The official-level talks between the Indian and Mozambique delegations were also held in New Delhi. The Indian side was led by the finance and commerce minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, and the Mozambique side was led by their transport and communications minister, Mr Armando Guebuza. They discussed among other things increase in Indian technical assistance to Mozambique. India has taken up four projects in Mozambique for bilateral assistance under the AFRICA [Aid For Resisting Invasion, Colonialism, and Apartheid] Fund. Being the chairman of the fund, India is assisting Frontline States to strengthen their economic and financial capability to combat the apartheid regime in Pretoria.

The Mozambique president today called on the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [presidential residence]. The meeting lasted about 30 minutes. The vice president, Dr Shanker Dayal Sharma, called on the Mozambique president. The president is hosting a dinner in honor of the visiting dignitary. The Mozambique president and his delegation will leave for Srinagar tomorrow on a day's visit.

Attends Banquet

BK1505033288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] India has called for renewed global efforts to end apartheid in South Africa and break the economic stranglehold of the racist regime against the Frontline States.

Speaking at a banquet in honor of the Mozambique president, Mr Joaquim Chissano, in New Delhi, the president, Mr R. Venkataraman, strongly condemned racism and criticized Pretoria for continuing the apartheid policy. Mr Venkataraman welcomed the efforts of the Frontline States, including Mozambique, to get rid of domination by Pretoria. Reiterating India's support for the African cause and Namibian independence, the president expressed the hope that racism will come to an end soon. Mr Venkataraman assured India's full cooperation in the development of Mozambique. The president said Mr Chissano's visit will strengthen bilateral relations between India and Mozambique.

Ends Visit, Departs

BK1605034488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] The Mozambican president, Mr Joaquim Chissano, left New Delhi for Beijing this morning after a 2-day visit. He was seen off at the airport by the minister of state for banking and economic affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro. During his stay, Mr Chissano has had wide-ranging talks with Indian leaders on bilateral and international matters.

Report Faults Procedures in FRG Submarine Deal

BK1305163888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 May 88

[Text] The comptroller and auditor general of India has pointed out certain lapses in the procurement of four SSK-class submarines from the West German firm, HDW [Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft]. The report of the comptroller and auditor general was presented to parliament today. It said the government awarded the contract to a foreign manufacturer whose submarine was not the best on technical evaluation and whose overall costs were higher by 11.41 crore [rupees]. There is evidence of defective price analysis in terms of a 35.5 percent differential in the cost of spares quoted by the two manufacturers going unquestioned.

The report also said that the government had approved the procurement of the vessel in June 1980. A conditional technical assistance agreement was signed after 1 and 1/2 years. This resulted in delayed signing of the contract price and extra expenditure of over 21 crore rupees.

The report also says the contract did not insist upon the technical parameter of self-noise. This deprived the Navy of an unfettered right to reject. It was only left to the supplier to analyze the cause for excessive noise and to remedy matters before paying any penalties.

After the report was tabled in the Lok Sabha, an opposition member sought to raise a discussion on it, but the speaker disallowed it.

Iran

Khomeyni Delivers 'Id al-Fitr Speech

LD1705134088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 88

[Speech by Imam Khomeyni on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr at the Jamaran Palace on 17 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Before anything else, I congratulate the Iranian nation on the occasion of this 'Id al-Fitr and thank the nation being so well represented, particularly in the election arena. Although many efforts were exerted to prevent the election from taking place in a calm and appropriate way, the election took place, praise be to God, and may God make this blessed 'Id blessed for everyone.

What I would like to say today concerns an anecdote relating to a sermon that the most generous Prophet delivered in the blessed month of Ramadan. One part says that God gave a feast for everyone and today he has invited you to a feast. In the blessed month of Ramadan you are God's guests. God is the host and his creatures are his guests. Of course, this feast, in the context of God's (?overall scheme of things) is not something that our imagaination can encompass. This is beyond our grasp.

We should ponder what this feast has been and the extent to which we have gained access to it. While the entire universe enjoys God's blessings, and whatever there is stems from His blessings and His blessings apply to everything, nevertheless the matter of that feast is something altogether different. The blessings of that feast are altogether different.

This feast concerns abandoning lusts, such as those associated with food, drink, and other things man lusts after. God has invited us to that feast, and that feast is nothing other than foregoing things—impulsive acts, forbidden things, egotism. We should ponder whether we have joined that feast, or whether we have not joined it at all. Is there a single route to that feast or not? Have we benfited from that divine feast or not? Of course, my records are somthing for the blessed writer [reference to the angel that keeps a record of man's deeds in this world].

However, I am addressing you all gentlemen and those who can hear my words, particularly the younger generation. Have you gone to that feast? Have you benefited from it? Have you foregone lust, particularly spiritual lusts [shahavat-e ma'navi]? Or is it that you [words indistinct]. The younger generation should bear in mind that man can improve himself when he is young. As one ages, one develops characteristics that distance him from God. You should bear in mind that if you come out of that feast properly, you will be successful. This applies to those who have gained access to that feast, who have benfited from it. In the same way that tangible lusts should be abandoned, inward lusts, which are the greatest obstacles to man, should likewise be curbed.

All the aspects of corruption that occur in the world stem from the fact that we have not joined that feast, or else we have joined it but not benefited from it. This applies to everyone. You have all been invited to God's feast. You are all God's guests. And this feast concerns abstention. If there is one iota or wordly lust in man then he has failed to join that feast, or even if he has joined it he has failed to benefit from it. All the commotion that you see in the world stems from the fact people have failed to benefit from that feast, they have failed to join it, they have failed to respond to God's invitation. You should endeavor to respond positively to that invitation, so that you may be granted access to it.

If worldly desires pass, then mankind becomes divine in accordance with his nature. He is (?close) to God. Everyone pays attention, but paying attention to the world is a secondary matter; it is twisted and turns mankind from vital issues. If you see there are wars and disputes in the world, and there are some examples here—God forbid—then you should realize that it is because you have not attended this feast, and you have not understood the month of Ramadan. The month of Ramadan has come to you and given you a great opportunity, but you have rejected it.

In the elections, although some of the elections were peaceful, there were Satans who intended to create discord. In other places when elections are held, the ruling strata and foreign outside elements attract the people to themselves and deceive the people. They make speeches all aimed at deceiving the people. In the elections, although they were organized very well, there were some elements which intended to create discord and division. However, thanks be to God, they did not succeed. You must note that enemies always strive to create division among you and cause internal decay. However, if you have attended this feast, the enemy elements will not reach you.

When one observes the truth behind this feast, one realizes that if mankind were to attend this feast, all the discords of the world would be solved. The Satans strive to create discord and say there is division. However, thanks be to God, the faces of our nation and particularly our clergymen are wreathed in halos. And, God willing, they have entered this feast in this holy month, and its consequences will appear later when they are all united.

There are not two factions. Of course, there are two ways of thinking and so it should be. There are two opinions and so there should be. Different tastes and views should exist. However, different tastes do not mean that people with two different views should not be on good terms with each other. I have said that the example should be like that of religious students exchanging views and holding discussions on religious matters. When they were engaged in a discussion, they were making so much noise that an observer would have thought they were enemies. But at the conclusion of the discussion, they would kiss each other and apologize. If different views do not exist in a nation, that nation would be imperfect. A Majlis without diversity of views is an imperfect Majlis. There should be different tastes, different opinions, discussions, and debates with a loud exchange of words. Such things must exist, but the outcome should not result in dividing us into two hostile groups. We should be two groups who remain friends, while respecting our different views.

If we have entered this feast in this holy month, then its remnants should last for a long time after the holy month is over. The holy month is like a clock we wind up and it keeps on working for some time. The holy month should have this effect on people, that is, it should protect people until the next holy month of Ramadan. When the next holy month comes, it will recharge people. And this comes only if we enter the feast. I hope that we have attended this feast and all you gentlemen will go through this year with good health and happiness.

I believe that the best prayer for the U.S. President and his lackeys such as Saddam is to beseech God to give them death. [shouts of "Amen"] This is a blessing for them. If you want to curse them you must ask God to protect them. For every day that is added to the lives of such people they will go to a worse part of Hell. Hell has different parts which suit people with different degrees of sins. The more they commit sins for every extra day that they live, their place in Hell will become worse and hotter. If, therefore, you wish to say a prayer for them you should ask God to give them death so that their Hell will not be too unbearable for them. And may God also wake us up to make us realize that we are not in this world for a long period, not more than a few days, albeit I go first and you follow each other gradually.

After 100 years nothing that we know today will remain. These are all transient phases and will vanish. What remains are the virtues of mankind. What leads a person to Hell or Heaven are his own deeds, not external factors. When someone dies, another world begins for him, a world for which he has prepared himself. Nothing comes from outside. Whatever comes, it comes from mankind himself.

Strive to make yourselves better persons in this month, this day, and these years, God willing. May God grant you and all the inhabitants of this country good health. May you all be successful and helped by Almighty God. May you live with the lord of the era [the hidden imam], may our souls be sacrificed for him. May all your wishes, your good and correct wishes—which is to reach God and you may not all know this—come true. All of us look toward him, and may God remove the curtains so that we can all see Him. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

Tehran Notes Attendees

LD1705135688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 88

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president; Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker; Musavi-Ardabili, the president of the Supreme Judicial Council; Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister; Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani; Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Falsafi; and a large number of spiritual, political, and military figures, as well as Hezbollahi people and domestic and foreign correspondents this morning met Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at his Jamaran residence.

During the meeting, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, made a brief opening speech in which he congratulated the imam of the ummah on blessed 'Id al-Fitr and said: Thanks to the blessings of Islam and the Koran and to our dear imam's firm and decisive presence, the arena of the revolution is always full of enthusiasm and the dear nation always present in the arena. We hope that today everyone in the Iranian nation will benefit from your eminence's guidance and advice and that your warm breath, which during the days and nights of the month of Ramadan has had its usual boundless purity with your attention and prayers, will be a guide for the people. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Delivers Sermon on 'Id al-Fitr

NC1705070988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] In his sermon marking the auspicious prayers of 'Id al-Fitr, Tehran's Friday imam, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, congratulated the imam of the ummah, the Iranian nation, and all the world's Muslims on 'Id al-Fitr. He said: Many are the faces among our people that have been brightened by God's mercy, and many are the hearts that have been illuminated with fervent divine prayers throughout the days and nights of the propitious month of Ramadan. May they be blessed. He emphasized that every pious person has gained something from the blessings of this auspicious month, and that it is important that we preserve these valuable benefits for ourselves.

He added: Today our nation, country, and revolution, as well as the eager hearts of all the world's Muslims, need our steely faith, virtue, and self-denial. At this point, the Friday imam of Tehran called on the world's Muslims to show virtue, saying: Let us resolve to appreciate and maintain the affection, trust, and confidence that the great movement of the revolution has created in our nation. This is extremely important [words indistinct].

Mr Khamene'i explained that the world of infidels, feeling the threat of the Islamic revolution, has deployed its troops against it. He noted that this deployment is growing daily, even after 9 years, due to the opposition and rancor harbored by world arrogance against the revolution. He declared: Only a nation that is united and acts as one can resist this rancor, and the enemy is trying to break our unity. Thus, we must preserve it, and frustrate the enemy's plan.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i thanked the people for their massive participation in the elections, which took place under extremely difficult circumstances. He then called on the elected deputies to step up their efforts to promote the country's major issues and to do their divine and legal duties in the best possible way. This, he added, will allow them to satisfy their constituents.

The president touched on events in Lebanon, saying: The clashes between Muslim brothers in Lebanon benefit the foreigners. Our message to these brothers, who have sent their troops against each other, is that Israel will be the only winner from all this. Even the victor in these conflicts will be vanquished. We believe that alien and foreign hands were involved in creating these bloody incidents among our brothers in Lebanon. We feel that everyone, especially their leaders, should try to bring these brothers together. As long as these bloody episodes continue, we, too, will be deeply hurt. With clenched fists and all their strength, they should try to inflict their blows on the usurping Zionist government.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council described the pressure that the United States and world arrogance are seeking to exert on the Islamic Republic of Iran as a mirage that exists only in their minds. Referring to their various conspiracies, he noted: The basic goal of the Iraqi regime's attack on Iran was to cut us off from our oil rsources. But their calculations, which were quite (?wrong), were defeated. Today, after 7 years of the imposed war, the United States and its collaborators want to take oil matters into their own hands. However, they have failed. Now things have reached the point where the United States is helping the Iraqi regime. Blissfully ignorant, they believe that by (?strengthening) the Iraqi regime they can block Iran's oil routes. But we declare that if a day comes when the Islamic Republic is unable to use the oil route through the Persian Gulf, that oil route will cease to exist for all countries. The United States should know that it cannot influence the Iranian nation and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Its posturing does not work here. We and our entire devoted nation, which have been put to the test for these 9 years, knew who we were facing from the very start. The day when the United States involves itself in a war with Iran in the Persian Gulf will be the day when the countdown for the decline of the American empire begins.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council then pointed out: America's support for the Iraqi regime is also useless. We insist on our decisive slogan that the aggressor must be punished. The warriors of Islam will continue to strike until the criminal Ba'thist regime is punished. In conclusion, the Friday imam of Tehran told the great Iranian nation: You have maintained your dignity and grandeur in this arena. You should continue to do so, and keep up your presence on the battlefield until final victory.

Jannati Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons in Qom

LD1605141588 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 14 May 88

[Text] Qom, May 14, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri attended the Friday prayers at this holy city which also marked the International Qods Day.

The provisional Friday prayers leader of the city Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati accused the world oppressors and certain Arab countries for having fanned the flames of disputes between Shi'ite groups in Lebanon.

Ayatollah Jannati who was referring to clashes between the Amal and Hizballah in Beirut said that it was regrettable that a country which is in the front line of anti-Zionist struggle has now been engaged in such rivalaries.

These groups which should unitedly have their guns on the Zionist regime are now unconsciously serving the cause of the enemy of Islam. He described the clashes now in its ninth day as a tragedy.

These plots, he added, are engineered by the White House with the support of a number of Arab countries and are implemented in war-torn Lebanon.

Ayatollah Jannati appealed to both groups to realise the present circumstances and refrain from playing into the hands of the enemy.

Elswhere in the sermon he strongly criticised the stance of Arab countries towards Zionist atrocities in occupied territories. He called on Arab countries to fulfil their duties adding that there will be no limit to Zionist aggression and atrocities unless a severe reaction is shown.

To mark the International Qods Day thousands of people accompanied by distinguished theologians of the Qom Theological School and foreign students at these centres held a massive march here Friday morning.

After marching through the streets of the city and chanting slogans for liberation of Qods the demonstrators gathered at the site of the Friday prayers and attended the ceremony.

WIH Spokesman Warns U.S. Fleet on Larak Incident

LD1605184888 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 16 May 88

["Prepare for Another Disgraceful Exit, WIH Warns U.S. Fleet"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—A spokesman for WIH decribed Saturday's concerted Baghdad-Washington operation in attacking Iran's Larak oil terminal as an open show of U.S. support for the Iraqi regime in its war against Islamic Iran.

In a talk published in today's issue of the Persian afternoon daily KAYHAN, the spokesman said U.S. military moves against Iran indicate that Ronald Reagan is still dreaming of military adventures.

The WIH spokesman noted that U.S. special envoy, General Vernon Walters' trip to the Middle East speaks of Washington's wild hopes for the success of its misconstrued military policy in the region, the policy which has rightly proved to be an exercise in futility over the past decade, he added.

Warning U.S. warships to be prepared for another disgraceful retreat similar to their pull-out from Lebanese coasts, the WIH spokesman said the U.S. is facing determined Iranian people who have "deep and inborn abhorance" against U.S. imperialism.

Mahallati Outlines Conditions To End War

LD1605083888 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Iran's representative at the United Nations Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati said here yesterday that Iran will continue a political struggle at the United Nations and elsewhere to ensure that its conditions for an end to the war are met. He said the country's insistence on the punishment of the aggressor party in the war and its other conditions for an end to the war may as well be fulfilled by political efforts.

Mahallati who was speaking to an audience of college students and others at the Political Studies Bureau of Iran's Foreign Ministry here said UN Resolution 598 contains certain plausible points including its provision for formation of a committee for identifying the aggressor party in the conflict. He said the execution of this provision of the UN resolution will bring Iran a big victory at the UN and in relation with the conflict.

The Iranian envoy said once the commission is formed and once it has performed its other tasks including war reparations to Iran and international guarantees to the country against threats of another aggression then the commission will have paved the way for the ouster of the ruling government in Iraq.

He said the Islamic Republic will be represented in each and every international forum in the future since the past Iraq took advantage of every forum from which Iran was absent.

Mahallati said elsewhere in his lecture that the U.S. has gone a long way to pit the UN Security Council against Iran, and that it has heavily lobbied for a resolution anticipating some form of punishment to Iran. He said one such scheme has been the U.S. lobbies at the UN for imposing an arms embargo on Iran, and for smearing the international profile of the Islamic Government and portraying it as a government belonging to the same category with the racist regime of Pretoria.

The Iranian official said Iran insists that the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar be given sufficient elbow-room and freedom for executing the the resolution without having to comply with dictates by others.

Envoy to Canada Holds Talks With Musavi

LD1505115588 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 15 May 88

[Text] Tehran,May 15, IRNA—Iran's charge d'affaires to Canada Mohammad 'Ali Musavi, here on a homecoming visit, met with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Saturday and briefed him on the diplomatic operations of the Iranian Embassy in the country of his assignment.

During the meeting, the prime minister gave him his advice and expressed pleasure with Canadian Government's condemnation of Iraq's chemical warfares.

Musavi Urges Promotion of Non-Oil Exports

LD1605185788 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Premier Musavi chaired the 14th session of the non-oil exports promotion committee Sunday to review Iranian exports last calendar year (ended March 20).

The committee called on all ministries and state organisations to give priority to non-oil exports, pay more attention to industrial products and hold seminars and meetings to discuss export problems and to explore possibilities.

The committee pointing out inadequate export regulations urged for a reduction in red tapism, which it said often hampers non-oil exports.

Majlis Election Results Detailed

LD1405140588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 May 88

[Excerpt] We begin with a report on the results of the vote count for the second round of elections to the third Islamic Consultative Assembly. The supervisor of the elections headquarters of the country announced the results of voting in 49 out of 52 constituencies as follows:

Constituency	Candidate	Votes Cast	Votes Received
Dehloran	Seyyed Mohammad Ha'eri	68,425	35,960
Varzaqan	Fereydun Qasemi	24,658	14,751
Dasht-e Azadegan	Jasem Jadeli	15,236	8,167
Qasr-e Shirin, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb	Mohammad Hoseyn Jahangiri	72,602	42,906
Fereydan, Fereydunshahr	Seyyed 'Abbas Hedayati Sichani	57,404	29,697
Qazvin	Seyyed 'Abdollah Hejrati-Qazvini	103,022	51,827
Kaleibar	Mas'ud Sadeqi-Azad	35,975	19,703
Shiraz	Asadollah 'Abedi ShahrKholqi	141,116	83,057
	Rasul Montajab-Nya	60,902	58,980
Khodabandeh	Qasem Sho'leh Sa'di Morovatollah Parto	46,872	24,597
Gonbad-e Qabus	Mir-Khosro Ziapur Radgili	57,161	28,316
Sarvestan	Ahmad Kharestani	37,062	19,882
Rudbar	Mohsen Mirzapur Karashkari	52,238	26,938
Arak	Gholan Reza Feda'i-Araki	98,809	53,007
Zabol	Gholam 'Ali Shahraki	48,831	29,452
Bukan	Ahmad Taha	31,133	18,195
Ahvaz	Amin Bayanat	111,531	53,833
	Seyyed Rasul Musavi		51,305
	Seyyed Ahmad Musavi		49,155
Orumiyeh	'Ali 'Abdol 'Alizadeh	95,298	48,834
	Seyfollah Ja'fari-Lur		38,879
Andimeshk	Hasan Reza'i Dukandari	36,958	20,069
Lordegan	Davud Tohidi Bidhani	69,518	35,480
Kangavar, Harsin, Sahneh	Vahid Ahmadi	57,149	39,871
Mahabad	Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyni	30,212	19,284
Ilan	'Ali Karam Mohammadiyan	71,091	36,561
Rasht	'Ali Reza [name indistinct]	65,536	37,413
	Elyas Hazrati		24,988
Bandar-e 'Abbas	Hasan Hemayati	75,431	40,020
Moghan	Habibollah Borumand	58,087	29,855
Qa'emshahr	Saleh Rohanizadeh	76,394	40,479
Mashhad	Qorban 'Ali Salehabadi	185,219	99,431
Tabriz	Seyyed Hoseyn Pur-Mirghafari	135,745	55,001
	Mohammad 'Ali Sobhanollahi		53,814
	Hashem Hashemzadeh [name indistinct]		50,779
	Mir 'Ali Ashraf 'Abdollahpur Hoseyni		49,129
	Mohammad Hoseyn Cheregani Anzali		45,447
Langerud	Parviz Seyq 'Ali Komaleh	45,572	26,489
Na'in	Nabiollah Raji	24,685	14,543
Babol	Mohsen Nariman	63,974	32,703
Yazd	Seyyed Mohammad Rajavi [name indistinct]	73,507	48,512
'Aliabad Katu	'Eynollah 'Ala	28,409	14,268
Takestan	Qahreman Rahmani	40,780	20,208
Ardebil	Seyyed Faqreddin Musavi Nanehkalan	79,525	43,577
Natanz, Qamsar	'Ali Abdolkarimi Natanzi	29,073	17,244
Do Rud, Jatalaq	Seyyed Mohsen Shafi'i	60,342	33,971

Constituency	Candidate	Votes Cast	Votes Received
Sonqor Poliyayi	'Ali Reza Rostami	29,243	16,960
Bojnord	'Ali Mohaddar	59,820	36,072
Dashti, Tangestan, Dayer, Kangan	Seyyed Kamaleddin Shahriyari	48,851	25,167
Ramhormoz	Mohammad Reza Bahmeh'i	31,574	13,989
Razan	Ahmad Rahbari	70,918	39,083
Ramiyan	Hoseyn A'zabifard	64,433	34,597
Shahriyar, Robat-Karim	Ahmad Mahmud Robati	72,378	41,321
Lengah	'Ali Asghar Mortazavifar	55,673	28,907
Marand	Karim Shafe'i	70,781	45,744
Kwaf, Roshtkhar	Hoseyn Najafi Sani Roshtkhari	33,645	19,494
Kashmar	Ahmad Bolukiyan	71,772	40,031
Khwash	Mas'ud Hashemzigi	26,149	13,702 [passage omitted]

Latest Results in Tehran

NC1505081588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 May 88

[Report by the supervisor of the Interior Ministry's election headquarters on latest results of the vote count for second round of third Majlis elections in Tehran constituency—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following results from the 713,892 ballots cast in the Tehran electoral constituency were received by the election headquarters of the country, and are presented for the information of the Hezbollahi ummah in general and dear residents of Tehran in particular:

Name of Candidate	Votes Received
Hasan Rohani	335,525
Morteza Alviri	333,272
Mrs Hadidehchi Dabbagh	332,088
Mohammad Ebrahim Asgharzadeh	329,784
'Abbas Duzduzani	313,825
Hoseyn Forutan	308,602
Morteza Katira'i	305,474
'Abbas 'Ali 'Amid Zanjani	298,350
Seyyed 'Abdol Vahed Musavi-Lari	286,394
'Isa Vela'i	284,621
Sa'id Taslimi	282,271
Najaf Qoli-Habibi	279,430
Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani	276,651
'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri	263,612
Hoseyn Mozaffari-Nezhat	256,588
Mohammad Reza Bahonar	255,227

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Kurds Attack Iraqi Bases

LD1605154788 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Iraqi Muslim combatants attacked two Ba'thist bases in Irbil Province last week killing or wounding several Iraqi mercenaries.

Kurdish Hezbollah Peshmergas along with Iran's Muslim combatants in a blitz attack along the Qadim Khan-Sirawa road in Irbil Province set afire two Iraqi bases.

The operations destroyed major parts of Iraqi military equipment and at least ten Ba'thist troops were killed and a large number wounded.

Communique No 3,204

LD1605165588 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Tehran May 16, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out its routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Sunday to provide air over for the Navy and reconnoiter foreign vessels in the waterway, said a military communique here Monday.

The 3204th Joint Staff communique said that Iranian naval units in addition to carrying out patrol missions in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, repelled some Iraqi warplanes attempting to attack Lavan Island and an oil platform in the Persian Gulf.

On the battlefields, Iran's Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites and supply routes yesterday inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 10 enemy gun emplacements and several light vehicles destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery dules with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday.

Iranian artillery fire checked Iraqi logistical operations in Sedan, Helaleh, 'Eyn-e Khowsh, Kani-Sheykh, Nahr 'Anbar and Zobeydah, southern and western fronts yesterday.

A number of Iraqi patrol convoys operating in Sedan, Qasr-e Shirin, Helaleh and Nahr 'Anbar yesterday were routed by Iranian artillery fire Sunday, concluded the communique.

Targets Raided Near Basra

LD1705100488 Tehran IRNA in English 1000 GMT 17 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—Iranian fighter-bombers heavily bombed fortifications, troop-concentration sites and armoured equipment of Iraq's 7th Corps in the operational region near Basra at 02:30, 02:35, 03:10, 06:40, 06:45, 07:25 GMT Tuesday.

The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Froces announcing the above added that all the jet fighters returned to bases safely after inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

Briefs

Television Satellite Station

On the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, the television satellite station in Zir Kuh-e Qa'en in Khorasan Province became officially operational. The Central News Unit reports that 10 villages in the Zir Kuh Region, more than 10,000 people, can now view Network One television programs. [Summary] [*NC1705103888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 17 May 88*]

Pakistan

Accord Reached With India on Border Security

BK1605164088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] Pakistan and India have agreed to take immediate and concrete measures to contain terrorism and drug trafficking, as well as smuggling and illegal border crossings, along their common frontier. This was contained in a joint press release issued simultaneously in Islamabad and New Delhi this evening at the end of talks between the Pakistani interior secretary and the Indian home secretary in the Indian capital.

The two parties decided that the India-Pakistan committee on border ground rules should meet in the next 3 months to finalize regulations, by taking the actual situation into account. They agreed on mutual cooperation to check crimes connected with drug trafficking and smuggling. Both sides also agreed on several interim measures. In addition, they decided to make arrangements for joint patrols in selected border areas to prevent arms smuggling and border crossings by terrorists. Formal meetings of the two sides at the level of wing or battalion commander will be held at least every month to prevent illegal movement at the border.

It was agreed that the Pakistani interior secretary and the Indian home secretary will remain in touch, and they resolved to meet again in Islamabad within 6 months.

Paper Views India's 'Ambitious' Nuclear Program

BK1405091588 Karachi DAWN in English 9 May 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Heavy Water"]

[Text] What an Oslo newspaper reported has finally been officially confirmed by Norway—that over 15 tons of heavy water has been "missing" since 1983. An official Foreign Ministry spokesman, however, did not accuse any particular country of having stolen the precious fluid. But an expert at the Natural Resources Defence Council in Washington said that India was "in the market" for heavy water and that "circumstantial evidence" suggested that the missing heavy water had reached India. Oslo paper VERDENS GANG also gave details of the cloak-and-dagger operation in what the Norwegian Foreign Ministry called "an international conspiracy" and reported how, thanks to a German with a Nazi past, the 15 tons of heavy water were flown on a Liberian-registered West African Airlines plane and how it ultimately reached its destination in India via Basel and Dubayy.

The illegal diversion occurred when India desperately needed heavy water for one of its nuclear reactors, then under construction. The fast nuclear breeder reactor at Kalpakkam, near Madras, has since been completed and one assumes that India's nuclear programme, open and not so open, is proceeding full speed ahead. However, the covert way of obtaining heavy water is only one of the clues to India's nuclear ambitions; there are several others, more manifest than this, including the 1974 testing of a nuclear device in the Rajasthan desert, barely 18 miles from Pakistan's borders. Another is New Delhi's consistently negative response to a number of proposals made by Pakistan to arrive at an understanding with India on the nuclear issue.

Last year, from two international forums, Prime Minister Junejo offered to India a regional, global or bilateral approach for a non-proliferation understanding. Addressing the United Nations General Assembly last June the Prime Minister proposed to his Indian counterpart a bilateral agreement to renounce nuclear weapons. Then, in November, speaking at the inaugural session of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit at Kathmandu the Prime Minister made a plea for a joint renunciation of the nuclear option by all SAARC members. On earlier occasions, too, Pakistan had proposed that the two countries throw open their nuclear facilities to international inspection or, in the alternative, agree to a system of mutual inspection.

Other proposals have included declaring South Asia a nuclear-free zone and an offer that Pakistan and India sign the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] simultaneously. However, none of these suggestions evoked a positive response from the other side. Not only that, to cover up its own secret nuclear weapons project India mounted a high-pitch propaganda campaign against Pakistan's modest nuclear programme, accusing Islamabad of working towards an "Islamic bomb", a "bomb in the basement" and so forth. Luckily for India, it found some receptive ears in the west, especially in the United States, where some sections of the media and Congress have repeatedly pleaded for a suspension of aid to Pakistan on the unfounded charge that it was producing weapons-grade uranium at its Kahuta facility.

None of these tactics can serve to obscure from view India's own vastly ambitious nuclear programme which it has been feverishly pursuing with a helping hand from the two superpowers. From the Soviet Union it imports heavy water, besides having a number of agreements with Moscow on nuclear cooperation, while the United States has been generous in providing it not only with uranium but also with super-computers that could be used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. American sources now estimate that by 1990 India will be able to produce enough weapons-grade plutonium to manufacture 60 nuclear bombs a year.

All this should be seen in the context of India's mounting defence expenditure, its vastly accelerated naval expansion programme, especially the acquisition of a nuclear-powered submarine (with more on the way), its military presence in Sri Lanka, its jingoistic stance towards Pakistan as exemplified by intrusions into the Siachen Glacier, and its overall perception of itself as the dominant power in the region and, perhaps, a superpower of the future. That a colossal amount of money should have been diverted into these military channels and away from the mounting needs of India's poverty-stricken people is indeed a sad reflection on the sense of priority of India's rulers of today. While all of India's neighbours, particularly Pakistan and China, with both of whom India has had border skirmishes and wars, are bound to take notice of New Delhi's nuclear ambitions and bloated armaments in the pursuit of hegemonic aims, the first to suffer are the people of India themselves.

PRC Ambassador Delivers Message to Ziaul Haq

BK1605154088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 May 88

[Text] The Chinese ambassador, Mr Tian Ding, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening, and conveyed a message of good wishes from the Chinese leadership. The envoy noted that the Chinese people and government eagerly await the Pakistani president's upcoming visit to China.